

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:42 AM  
**To:** 'fscandale@lohud.com'  
**Cc:** 'svenugop@lohud.com'; 'gtroyano@lohud.com'; 'tbauer@lohud.com'; 'gstern@lohud.com'; 'ncutler@lohud.com'; 'letters@lohud.com'; 'kcroke1@lohud.com'; 'dan@sociamerica.com'; 'joan@jgtpr.com'; 'info@capstonestrategygroup.com'; 'drlaser@gmail.com'; 'lpeterson@rnntv.com'; 'awhitman@rnntv.com'; 'jzaino@iona.edu'; 'mdolan@lohud.com'; 'jrobinson@lohud.com'; 'mlungariel@lohud.com'; 'metro@lohud.com'; 'jbandler@lohud.com'; 'jfitzgib@lohud.com'; 'dwilson3@lohud.com'; 'ceberhart@lohud.com'; 'jfusco@lohud.com'; 'elgarcia@lohud.com'; 'rliebson@lohud.com'; 'mmckinney@lohud.com'; 'dreiner@lohud.com'; 'mspillane@lohud.com'; 'jspector@gannett.com'; 'jcampbell1@gannett.com'; 'jfenster@lohud.com'; 'mcoyne@lohud.com'; 'adelgado@lohud.com'  
**Subject:** "Stand[ing] for Significance" -- CJA's Aug 10th OPEN LETTER -- & the questions for the Westchester county executive candidates specified by CJA's Oct. 23rd e-mail to Editorial Board Leader Gary Stern  
**Attachments:** 8-10-17-open-ltr.pdf; 10-10-17-email-about-debate.pdf; 7-8-16-ltr-to-counties-final-final.pdf; e-mails-to-westchester-attorney-meehan.pdf; 10-23-17-email-from-gary-stern-journal-news-lohud.pdf

### TO: Frank Scandale, Watchdog Strategist -- & supervisor of the "team of seven watchdog reporters"

Inadvertently, I omitted you from the below e-mail, just sent, as likewise, from my October 23<sup>rd</sup> reply e-mail, which is below it.

Kindly furnish the results of your investigation of my August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER, that you told me you would be commencing following our nearly half-hour phone conversation on September 18<sup>th</sup>, to Engagement Editor/Editorial Board Member/Ombudswoman Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy. As you never got back to me about it, I assume you verified that it checked out 100% -- including its far-reaching impact, this year, on a succession of electoral races throughout the state -- and on next year's electoral races for governor, attorney general, comptroller -- and for every senate and assembly seat -- ALL OF WHICH BECOME COMPETITIVE.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 9:40 AM  
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**Subject:** "Stand[ing] for Significance" -- CJA's Aug 10th OPEN LETTER -- & the questions for the Westchester county executive candidates specified by CJA's Oct. 23rd e-mail to Editorial Board Leader Gary Stern

**TO: Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy**

This follows up the voice mail message I left for you at about 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – occasioned by my reading your article “*Sarah Lawrence president: Stand for significance*”, printed in the Journal News’ October 19<sup>th</sup> Central Westchester-Sound Shore Express. It concludes with an italicized paragraph identifying you as “an engagement editor and member of the editorial board of The Journal News/lohud.com” – which I already knew because I had read this on the Journal News-Lohud website. However, it then continues: “She also serves as an ombudswoman for the paper, a role in which she weighs in on stories and seeks to peel back the curtain on editorial decisions.” This I did not know. Where is that information on the Journal News-Lohud website? What about in the printed newspaper?

Assuming you serve such beneficial function, please “weigh in” and “peel back the curtain” on the significant election story that the Journal News-Lohud has been “sitting on” for the past 2-1/2 months – *to wit*, my attached August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER pertaining to the fitness of Westchester county executive candidates Latimer and Astorino – and the multi-party lines on which they are running. Below is the e-mail chain, beginning with my e-mail transmitting the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER to New York’s eight “recognized” political parties and to the candidates, followed by my succession of e-mails to Journal News-Lohud. The only e-mail response, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, was from editorial board leader Gary Stern and is attached above. My October 23<sup>rd</sup> reply is directly below this message and bears the title “**EMERGENCY: Journal News/Lohud, as Conduit for the Public's Questions, is Rigging Tomorrow's Debate for Westchester County Executive**”.

As pointed out by my October 23<sup>rd</sup> reply, Mr. Stern did not answer the question posed by my initial October 23<sup>rd</sup> e-mail, addressed to him, as to whether the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER had been distributed to ALL members of the editorial board, as I had requested. Was it? Was it furnished to you – and when? How about board members Nancy Cutler, Brenda Ross, and Karen Crokey, and the six “community members”: Elizabeth Colombini, Dan Garcia, Joan Grangenois-Thomas, Bruce Jackson, Dwight McLeod, and Jason Sapon?

By copy of this e-mail to editorial board members Cutler, Ross, and Crokey – whose lohud e-mail addresses are posted on the editorial board’s webpage – and to the four “community members” whose e-mail addresses I was able to independently locate, I request that they each identify whether and when they were furnished with the OPEN LETTER. I also ask that they forward this e-mail to Ms. Colombini and Mr. Jackson, so that they can each also respond.

What is your view of editorial board leader Stern’s above-attached responding October 23<sup>rd</sup> e-mail? Do you actually believe that Mr. Stern could not “figure out” the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER? And what about his fellow board members? Didn’t he know that they could help him “figure [it] out”? Or was Mr. Stern planning to rig the editorial board’s endorsement in the Westchester county executive race by withholding the OPEN LETTER from them – knowing, full well, that its recitation of candidate Latimer’s role, as a New York State senator, in perpetuating systemic governmental corruption – as to which the EVIDENTIARY PROOF is readily verifiable from CJA’s webpage: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>, precluded any editorial board endorsement of him. Indeed, didn’t the “few minutes weeks ago” that Mr. Stern spent on the OPEN LETTER suffice for him to recognize what its recitation makes obvious, *to wit*, that, if reported, with even minimal investigation, the race would be OVER – because candidate Latimer would have to be indicted, along with a “who’s who” of New York’s most

powerful government officers, all colluding in a grand larceny of taxpayer monies, whose initial piece – statutorily-violative, fraudulent, and unconstitutional judicial and district attorney pay raises – he could have stopped, in 2013, when the theft was \$30 million – and which is now in excess of \$200 million. Nothing heroic had been required of Senator Latimer. He had only to do his duty to “blow the whistle” on the massive fraud and unlawfulness that a constituent was conscientiously alerting him to – an obligation that U.S. Attorney Pret Bharara, less than a month after my March 8, 2013 meeting with Senator Latimer, would be publicly exhorting in words widely quoted then and thereafter:

“what has been perhaps most disheartening is the deafening silence of the many individuals who...saw something and said nothing. They learned of suspicious and potentially criminal activity being conducted in the halls of the Capitol and elsewhere, and they said nothing. No one made a call. No one blew the whistle. No one sounded the alarm. Rather, too many people looked the other way. And what does it say about the culture and accountability of our system of government when officials are aware of criminal conduct around them and they remain silent? So what I hope happens going forward is that if you are an elected official or you work for one, or you’re in government anywhere and you see corruption or criminality of any stripe, you will call the authorities. Otherwise we will be back here again and again, announcing arrests, as we have in the past...” (April 4, 2013 written statement/press conference).

Before calling you on October 24<sup>th</sup>, I had already called and spoken with one of your “community members”, who told me, in response to my question, that the editorial board had not requested that the Westchester county executive candidates appear before its members for purposes of an endorsement. Perhaps Mr. Stern was intending that the Journal News-Lohud sponsorship of the October 24<sup>th</sup> debate, with Mr. Stern participating as a questioner, would substitute for inviting the candidates to be interviewed by the full board. Shouldn’t the Journal News-Lohud be disclosing to the public the “process”, if any, by which its editorial endorsements are made – including how it handles conflicts-of-interests by the 13 members of the editorial board?

As for the October 24<sup>th</sup> debate, my below October 23<sup>rd</sup> reply e-mail asserted that Mr. Stern was seemingly intending to rig it by not asking candidates Latimer and Astorino the significant questions I had furnished by my initial October 23<sup>rd</sup> e-mail and not forwarding the e-mail to the other questioners, for their consideration. As the Journal News-Lohud’s website posts only a 3-minute video clip of the candidates’ opening statements at the hour-long debate, I am left to rely on Mr. Lungariello’s article “5 takeaways about the Westchester county executive debate”. It recounts that “The first question of the night” was from Mr. Stern – and what it was. The question was “about more than \$46,000 in unpaid property taxes dating back five years owed on a house owned by Latimer’s wife”. Given Journal News-Lohud’s previous reporting on the subject, Mr. Stern already knew candidate Latimer’s not unreasonable explanation. Ironically, when I first read Mr. Longriello’s article, there was, on that very webpage, a video clip interview of Senator Latimer, obviously from a prior date, in which he not only furnished his not unreasonable explanation, but says “You’re letting a trivial story become a main story and I don’t really understand why.”

Surely, \$46,000 is utterly insignificant in comparison to the more than \$200 million dollars Senator Latimer has colluded in stealing from the taxpayers by the statutorily-violative, fraudulent, and unconstitutional judicial and district attorney pay raises – a theft in which, as recited by the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER and by my October 23<sup>rd</sup> e-mail with its questions and above attached documents, County Executive Astorino has been knowledgeable and criminally complicit.

There’s nothing difficult about ending government corruption. It is easy to “drain the swamp”. That’s what elections are for. However, voters cannot perform their swamp-draining, democracy-saving function when the press refuses to discharge its own significant function and 1<sup>st</sup> amendment responsibility of furnishing voters with the information essential to their assessing the candidates vying for their votes. **By any objective standard, the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN**

**LETTER and October 23<sup>rd</sup> e-mail, with its above attached substantiating proof – all already supplied to candidates Latimer and Astorino – furnish essential information for voters.**

I am available to assist you --- and anyone else at the Journal News-Lohud -- by answering questions and furnishing "hard copies" of all documents. Surely candidates Latimer and Astorino should be willing to do likewise so that your reporting and editorializing based thereon can proceed forthwith.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]  
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**Subject: EMERGENCY: Journal News/Lohud, as Conduit for the Public's Questions, is Rigging Tomorrow's Debate for Westchester County Executive**

**TO: Richard French, President of News & Programming – Regional News Network (RNN)  
Andrew Whitman, Senior Political Correspondent -- FIOS1 News  
Jeanne Zaino, Professor of Political Science – Iona College**

This is to advise you of an EMERGENCY SITUATION concerning tomorrow's debate between the candidates for Westchester county executive. Journal News/Lohud, which you have designated as the channel through which the public is to submit its questions for tomorrow's debate, is NOT discharging that important responsibility in an honest and professional way. This would include forwarding to you the questions it is receiving from the public for YOUR consideration and OVERSIGHT.

Less than 45 minutes after sending my below e-mail, with its specified questions for candidates Latimer and Astorino, Journal News/Lohud Engagement Editor Gary Stern, who also heads its editorial board, and who will be one of the questioners at tomorrow's debate, e-mailed me back that he is unable "to figure out what [I am] saying" and doesn't have "any time" at this point. His contradictory e-mail, first purporting "As far as I know, no one here was aware of your Aug. 10 'open letter'", but then stating "I may have tried to find a few minutes weeks ago to figure out what you are saying", is attached. It does not state that my e-mail is being passed on to you, for your own determination as to its suitability for questioning at tomorrow's debate – and surely, Mr. Stern would be ashamed for you to see that without denying or disputing that the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER is germane to the Journal News/Lohud endorsement in the Westchester county executive race, presumably next week, he does not know when, "in the coming weeks", he can get around to "read" it. No mention of distributing it to ALL the editorial board's membership – none more important than

its six “community members”, presumably “in the dark” as to what Mr. Stern and his Journal News/Lohud colleagues have been “sitting on”.

Needless to say, if you cannot “figure out” the straight-forward recitation of my 4-1/2 years of direct, first-hand interaction with Senator Latimer, as recounted by my attached August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER and documentarily-established by its substantiating webpage: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>, I would be glad to explicate it for you – much as I did, on September 18<sup>th</sup>, for Journal News/Lohud Watchdog Strategist Editor Frank Scandale, as recited by my below e-mail. Mr. Scandale should be able to promptly furnish you – and Mr. Stern -- with the results of his investigation, including whether he – or any of “the team of seven watchdog reporters he supervises” – simply picked up the phone and asked candidates Latimer and Astorino for their responses to the OPEN LETTER. Assuredly, neither candidate had difficulty in “figur[ing] out what [I was] saying”. Nor will either have difficulty in understanding the questions I specified below for tomorrow’s debate, which I have sent them.

I am available to assist you, however late tonight or early tomorrow morning, for the debate tomorrow afternoon.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]  
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**Subject: Oct 24 Westchester Co. Executive Debate -- plus request to appear before editorial board to answer questions about August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER concerning Candidates Latimer & Astorino -- & the multi-party endorsements they carry**

**TO: Gary Stern, Engagement Editor and Editorial Board Leader/Journal News-Lohud**

This follows up the voice mail message I left for you at approximately 4:45 on Friday afternoon, October 20<sup>th</sup>, after inadvertently calling Mark Lungariello, on whose voice mail I also left a message. Occasioning my call was the Journal News article “*Astorino vs Latimer: Iona debate set for Oct. 24*”, in which you are identified as one of the questioners for the debate between the candidates for Westchester county executive. My purpose was to find out whether you were aware of my above-attached August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER concerning candidates Latimer and Astorino and the integrity of the multi-party-endorsements they carry. As reflected by the below e-mail chain, I had furnished the Journal News with the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER, together with proof that it had been e-mailed to the candidates and the parties, almost 2-1/2 months ago and then repeatedly thereafter. Indeed, my below September 28<sup>th</sup> e-mail to Watchdog Strategist Editor Frank Scandale, which followed upon my nearly half-hour phone conversation with him on September 18<sup>th</sup>, had asked:

“...has the OPEN LETTER been furnished to ALL members of the Journal-News’ editorial board, who, within the very near future, will presumably be interviewing Senator

Latimer and County Executive Astorino for purposes of making an editorial endorsement as to who Westchester voters should elect to be their next county executive?..."

In so asking, I did not then know what I discovered only in the course of writing this e-mail while searching to find who is on the editorial board. What I discovered is that notwithstanding the "Chinese wall" that traditionally separates the news and editorial sides of a newspaper, Publisher and President George Troyano and Executive Editor Traci Bauer, to whom I had repeatedly sent the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER, are members of the 13-member editorial board, which you lead.

To date, I have received no response from Watchdog Strategist Editor Scandale to my September 28<sup>th</sup> e-mail. Nor have I received a response from President/Publisher Troyano and Executive Editor Bauer or from any of the other many Journal News recipients of the September 28<sup>th</sup> e-mail, all additionally cc'd on my subsequent October 10<sup>th</sup> e-mail. That October 10<sup>th</sup> e-mail, attached above, pertained to the October 10<sup>th</sup> debate between candidates Latimer and Astorino, sponsored by the Business Council of Westchester. In pertinent part, it stated:

"I assume press will be attending – particularly Gannett's Journal News/Lo-Hud, which yesterday evening posted an article by Mark Lungariello on today's debate – and on the two press-sponsored debates, including its own, that have been scheduled – and the cancelled League of Women Voters debate:

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/elections/2017/10/09/astorino-latimer-debates/739289001/>...

I respectfully request that my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER, sent to Candidates Latimer and Astorino, be identified and made the subject of questioning." (underlining in the original).

To my knowledge, at the October 10<sup>th</sup> debate there was no mention of the OPEN LETTER, nor questioning about its content. Certainly none was reported by the Journal News, whose own non-reporting of the OPEN LETTER has continued throughout the nearly 10 weeks it has had to ask candidate Latimer what, if anything, he denies or disputes about the OPEN LETTER – and to have INDEPENDENTLY confirmed, from the EVIDENCE substantiating the OPEN LETTER, posted or accessible from CJA's webpage for it, <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>, that his record, as a state senator, is one of willful collusion in, and perpetuation of, systemic governmental corruption, involving all three branches and an unconstitutional and larcenous slush-fund state budget.

This record precludes candidate Latimer from becoming Westchester county executive because, as stated by the OPEN LETTER, he must be criminally indicted, together with his conspiring fellow public officers, the highest of whom is Westchester-domiciled Governor Cuomo. As for candidate Astorino, who, as the OPEN LETTER recites, was first apprised of the situation in 2014 when he was running for governor against Cuomo, his failure to now use the OPEN LETTER for his political advantage – where doing so is the "whistle-blowing" duty he owes the public – demonstrates, yet again, his own collusion for which he is properly indicted.

Based on the OPEN LETTER, the editorial board cannot endorse either candidate – and certainly not Senator Latimer. Perhaps this is why the OPEN LETTER was withheld from you – if, in fact, it was withheld from you by your Journal News colleagues. Was it? And if it was furnished to you, have you distributed it to ALL the editorial board's members – none more important than the six "community members", whose function, presumably, is to give the appearance that the Journal News is solicitous of its obligations to the community. Surely it is hard to imagine that the six "community members", upon reading the OPEN LETTER, would not IMMEDIATELY protest that the Journal News had not reported on it, as it is so plainly dispositive of candidate unfitness, on its face – and the EVIDENCE substantiating it so readily and rapidly verifiable. Indeed, from the OPEN LETTER, the "community members" would have no trouble concluding that the Journal News articles over the past ten weeks about the Westchester county executive race -- most bearing Mr. Lungariello's by-line and none examining candidate Latimer's senate record on government integrity issues – are, by comparison, "fake news".

As I expect you and the members of the editorial board will have questions about the OPEN LETTER, I request the opportunity to appear before the editorial board to answer them.

As for tomorrow's October 24<sup>th</sup> county executive debate, I ask that you include questions to candidates Latimer and Astorino based on the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER – and, among them, what, if anything, they deny or dispute about its content. As the starting point of my interaction with Senator Latimer, recited by the OPEN LETTER, was my testimony at the Legislature's February 6, 2013 budget hearing about the statutorily-violative, fraudulent, and unconstitutional judicial pay raises and the district attorney pay raises based thereon, resulting from the August 29, 2011 report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation, let him begin by identifying what steps he took to secure findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the substantiating documentary proof I handed up, at the hearing: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/feb-6-2013-testimony-evidence.htm>. And let Senator Latimer also identify the steps he has taken to secure findings of facts and conclusions of law with respect to the subsequent documentary proof I furnished that the December 24, 2015 report of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation, further raising judicial salaries and, as a result, district attorney salaries, is even more statutorily-violative, fraudulent, and unconstitutional.

As a result of these two commission reports, New York taxpayers have paid out, since April 1, 2012, well over \$200 million – and the Westchester district attorney salary – paid from the Westchester county budget – has become the HIGHEST of ANY elected Westchester county officer. It is presently \$195,000 and is scheduled to rise another \$10,000 next year. Why has County Executive Astorino, whose salary is \$160,000, not repudiated and challenged the unlawful commission reports on which the Westchester district attorney salary rests? Was he not provided with my July 8, 2016 NOTICE, alerting him that the August 29, 2011 and December 24, 2015 commission reports are “each false instruments, violating a succession of penal law provisions”? Attached is the July 8, 2016 NOTICE, with the transmitting e-mails to Westchester County Attorney Robert Meehan, expressly asking that he distribute it to “all Westchester County legislators, executive officers & the treasurer/comptroller”, which I simultaneously sent to then Acting Westchester District Attorney James McCarty – who is now “second in command” to Westchester District Attorney Scarpino. Did County Attorney Meehan not distribute the July 8, 2016 NOTICE to County Executive Astorino and other officers: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/budget-2016-17/7-8-16-ltr-to-counties.htm>? How about the September 7, 2017 NOTICE OF RIGHT TO INTERVENE in the citizen-taxpayer action, so as to protect the interests of Westchester taxpayers: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2nd/9-2-16-osc-complaint/9-7-16-notice-intervention.htm>? What investigation will County Executive Astorino take into the matter? Will he demand that County Attorney Meehan and First Deputy District Attorney McCarty release their findings of facts and conclusions of law with respect to the two commission reports? Or would he prefer to have District Attorney Scarpino, a former judge, make his own findings of facts and conclusions of law with respect to the reports, so that appropriate legal and prosecutorial steps can be taken to protect Westchester taxpayers – and taxpayers throughout the state – including to recover the \$200 million-plus already stolen from the public fisc?

Of course, candidates Latimer and Astorino surely know that it doesn't take a lawyer or a judge to read the paltry August 29, 2011 and December 24, 2015 commission reports – and to examine THE EVIDENCE I furnished pertaining to the reports, all neatly presented by the citizen taxpayer action, and accessible from CJA's website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), – to conclude, on the most basic level, that the reports violated the statutory predicate for raising judicial salaries in that they only examined salary – and not, as required, “compensation and non-salary benefits” -- whose worth in pension, health benefits, and other payments, has been estimated as adding on about \$40,000. All it takes is HONESTY – without which they have no business asking Westchester voters for their votes.

So that candidates Latimer and Astorino will be prepared for tomorrow's questioning about the August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER – and about the related July 8, 2016 NOTICE and September 7, 2016 NOTICE OF RIGHT TO SEEK INTERVENTION -- I am simultaneously furnishing this e-mail to them, as likewise to County Attorney Meehan and District Attorney Scarpino, to whose offices I have already called, alerting them to the content of this e-mail I would be sending.

I am available to assist you, to the max. Do not hesitate to call with questions, no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
914-421-1200  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** 'jrobinson@lohud.com' <[jrobinson@lohud.com](mailto:jrobinson@lohud.com)>  
**Cc:** 'gtroyano@lohud.com' <[gtroyano@lohud.com](mailto:gtroyano@lohud.com)>; 'tbauer@lohud.com' <[tbauer@lohud.com](mailto:tbauer@lohud.com)>; 'fscandale@lohud.com' <[fscandale@lohud.com](mailto:fscandale@lohud.com)>

**Subject: AGAIN -- What is the status of Gannett/LoHud-Journal News' review of CJA's August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- & the evidence substantiating it?**

**TO: Gannett-Journal News/Lo-Hud Editor Jennifer Robinson**

I have received the attached automated e-mail from News Director Mary Dolan, in response to the below, sent to her, identifying you as the editor to contact, in her absence – until Oct. 3.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** 'fscandale@lohud.com' <[fscandale@lohud.com](mailto:fscandale@lohud.com)>  
**Cc:** 'gtroyano@lohud.com' <[gtroyano@lohud.com](mailto:gtroyano@lohud.com)>; 'tbauer@lohud.com' <[tbauer@lohud.com](mailto:tbauer@lohud.com)>; 'mdolan@lohud.com' <[mdolan@lohud.com](mailto:mdolan@lohud.com)>; 'mlungariel@lohud.com' <[mlungariel@lohud.com](mailto:mlungariel@lohud.com)>; 'metro@lohud.com' <[metro@lohud.com](mailto:metro@lohud.com)>; 'jbandler@lohud.com' <[jbandler@lohud.com](mailto:jbandler@lohud.com)>; 'jfitzgib@lohud.com' <[jfitzgib@lohud.com](mailto:jfitzgib@lohud.com)>; 'dwilson3@lohud.com' <[dwilson3@lohud.com](mailto:dwilson3@lohud.com)>; 'ceberhart@lohud.com' <[ceberhart@lohud.com](mailto:ceberhart@lohud.com)>; 'jfusco@lohud.com' <[jfusco@lohud.com](mailto:jfusco@lohud.com)>; 'elgarcia@lohud.com' <[elgarcia@lohud.com](mailto:elgarcia@lohud.com)>; 'rliebson@lohud.com' <[rliebson@lohud.com](mailto:rliebson@lohud.com)>; 'mmckinney@lohud.com' <[mmckinney@lohud.com](mailto:mmckinney@lohud.com)>; 'dreiner@lohud.com' <[dreiner@lohud.com](mailto:dreiner@lohud.com)>; 'mspillane@lohud.com' <[mspillane@lohud.com](mailto:mspillane@lohud.com)>; 'jspector@gannett.com' <[jspector@gannett.com](mailto:jspector@gannett.com)>; 'jcampbell1@gannett.com' <[jcampbell1@gannett.com](mailto:jcampbell1@gannett.com)>

**Subject: AGAIN -- What is the status of Gannett/LoHud-Journal News' review of CJA's August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- & the evidence substantiating it?**

**TO: Gannett-Journal News/Lo-Hud "Watchdog Strategist" Frank Scandale –**  
<http://www.lohud.com/staff/41511/frank-scandale/>

This follows up our extensive phone conversation together on September 18, 2017, upon your call to me approximately five hours after I sent the below e-mail, with the above attached two exhibits.

In our nearly half-hour conversation, I discussed with you the content of my attached August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER pertaining to the Senate record of Senator George Latimer – sent to him, to County Executive Astorino, to then-Westchester County Executive Candidate Ken Jenkins – and to the eight recognized political parties. You told me you had not yet fully read it, but that you would get back to me within a couple of days, after you had done so and reviewed the substantiating EVIDENCE, posted on CJA’s webpage for the OPEN LETTER: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>.

It is now ten days later – and I am unaware of any further phone call or e-mail from you – or from anyone else at Gannett-Journal-News/Lo-Hud. Have you or anyone else tried to reach me? What’s happening? Will Gannett-Journal News-Lo-Hud be reporting on the OPEN LETTER -- and getting answers from the candidates and parties? And has the OPEN LETTER been furnished to ALL members of the Journal-News’ editorial board, who, within the very near future, will presumably be interviewing Senator Latimer and County Executive Astorino for purposes of making an editorial endorsement as to who Westchester voters should elect to be their next county executive?

Please advise, without further delay. I am ready, *immediately*, to be interviewed as to my direct, first-hand-experience with the candidates and parties -- and to assist the Journal News’ “watchdog” journalists and editorial board to the fullest. Time is of the essence. The November 7, 2017 elections are now less than six weeks away.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)

---

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2017 11:37 AM

**To:** 'gtroyano@lohud.com' <[gtroyano@lohud.com](mailto:gtroyano@lohud.com)>; 'mlungariel@lohud.com' <[mlungariel@lohud.com](mailto:mlungariel@lohud.com)>; 'mdolan@lohud.com' <[mdolan@lohud.com](mailto:mdolan@lohud.com)>; 'jcampbell1@gannett.com' <[jcampbell1@gannett.com](mailto:jcampbell1@gannett.com)>; 'tbauer@lohud.com' <[tbauer@lohud.com](mailto:tbauer@lohud.com)>; 'fscandale@lohud.com' <[fscandale@lohud.com](mailto:fscandale@lohud.com)>; 'metro@lohud.com' <[metro@lohud.com](mailto:metro@lohud.com)>; 'jbandler@lohud.com' <[jbandler@lohud.com](mailto:jbandler@lohud.com)>; 'jfitzgib@lohud.com' <[jfitzgib@lohud.com](mailto:jfitzgib@lohud.com)>; 'ceberhart@lohud.com' <[ceberhart@lohud.com](mailto:ceberhart@lohud.com)>; 'jfusco@lohud.com' <[jfusco@lohud.com](mailto:jfusco@lohud.com)>; 'elgarcia@lohud.com' <[elgarcia@lohud.com](mailto:elgarcia@lohud.com)>; 'rliebson@lohud.com' <[rliebson@lohud.com](mailto:rliebson@lohud.com)>; 'mmckinney@lohud.com' <[mmckinney@lohud.com](mailto:mmckinney@lohud.com)>; 'dreiner@lohud.com' <[dreiner@lohud.com](mailto:dreiner@lohud.com)>; 'mspillane@lohud.com' <[mspillane@lohud.com](mailto:mspillane@lohud.com)>; 'jspector@gannett.com' <[jspector@gannett.com](mailto:jspector@gannett.com)>

**Subject: What is the status of Gannett/LoHud-Journal News' review of CJA's August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- & the evidence substantiating it?**

This follows up my voice mail messages earlier this morning for LoHud/Journal News President/Publisher George Troyano and for reporter Mark Lungariello.

Other than the attached August 16, 2017 automated e-mail acknowledgments from Gannett’s Albany Bureau reporter Jonathan Campbell – and from Lo-Hud/Journal News reporter Lungariello, and News Director Mary Dolan, I have received no responses from Gannett/Lo-Hud/Journal News to my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER regarding the record, in office, of New York State Senator George Latimer, running to be Westchester’s highest executive office – the Westchester county executive. Have you read the August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER – and examined the substantiating proof posted on CJA’s website: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>. Is it your view that it does not mandate reporting and investigation by what is essentially the ONLY media outlet for Westchester county with the staff and resources to do the job?

How are Westchester county residents supposed to make informed electoral decisions if Gannett/Lo-Hud/Journal News does not report on the records, in office, of incumbent public officers who are seeking higher public office?

Have you reported on Senator Latimer's record, in office, as a state senator? And will you be reporting on the records, in office, of Westchester's other state senate and assembly members – presumably all running for re-election in 2018? As stated by my August 10<sup>th</sup> OPEN LETTER (at p. 6), the systematic corruption involving them that is described and reflected by my testimony before the Legislature at its February 6, 2013, January 30, 2017, and January 31, 2017 budget hearings and by the pleadings in CJA's two citizen-taxpayer actions, in which they are defendants, sued for corruption, will blow open ALL the essentially non-competitive state senate and assembly electoral races – and the statewide races for governor, attorney general, and comptroller . Have you watched the VIDEOS of my testimony? Have you examined the pleadings – and record – of the citizen-taxpayer actions? Do you disagree?

Please let me hear from you, without further delay, so that I can understand your inaction to date, having such dire consequences for our democracy.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2017 11:04 AM

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**Cc:** 'gtroyano@lohud.com' <[gtroyano@lohud.com](mailto:gtroyano@lohud.com)>

**Subject: "OVERLOOKED"? -- FOLLOW-UP: "Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started: Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September" (8/7/17-Mark Lungariello/Gannett/lohud.com)**

As I have received NO response from Mark Lungariello – or ANY of the many indicated Gannett/LoHud recipients – to my below August 11<sup>th</sup> e-mail pertaining to the 2017 electoral race for Westchester county executive, I am resending it, in the event it was “overlooked” by all.

Please advise as to whether Westchester's premier, funded and staffed news outlet will be furnishing its Westchester readership with an investigative story – or any story, for that matter – and, if not, why not. So that President and Publisher George Troyano can undertake appropriate oversight of the situation, this e-mail is also being sent to him, in advance of my telephoning his office, which I will do shortly.

For your convenience, the direct link to the webpage for my attached August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER to the political parties and candidates for Westchester county executive is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, August 11, 2017 6:12 PM

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**Subject: FOLLOW-UP: "Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started: Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September" (8/7/17-Mark Lungariello/Gannett/lohud.com)**

**TO: Mark Lungariello/Gannett-lohud.com**

Your August 7, 2017 article "*Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started*", with the provocative subtitle "*Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September*", updated on August 8, 2017: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/elections/2017/08/07/reform/537871001/>, makes it appear that Senator Latimer rightfully enjoys the endorsement of the Reform Party. You quote Reform Party Chair Curtis Sliwa as saying: "It was clear to us that Rob Astorino had veered away from the concept of the Reform Party while Latimer seemed to be more in league [with] what we stood for". No mention as to whether the 13 members of the state Reform Party's executive committee, who unanimously voted to endorse Latimer, had considered any other candidates for Westchester county executive, as for instance, county Legislator Jenkins – or the "process", if any, that preceded the vote. Were candidates required to complete questionnaires? Were they interviewed? Was there any outreach to Westchester County's 35 Reform Party members? You then **uncritically** quote Senator Latimer as saying that he is looking "to restore civic engagement and transparency" in Westchester. No mention of his senate record, in Albany, on "civic engagement and transparency", though you do report that a spokesman for Astorino stated that he would be running on his record as county executive.

It is essential that you follow up with an investigative story – especially in light of your subtitle accusation of Astorino "seek[ing] to steal the line back" – which your article particularizes as follows:

"Astorino will try to take the line back in a Sept. 12 primary. Latimer will appear on the ballot, but Astorino's name will have to be written in.

There are only 35 registered Reform members in the entire county, according to most recent Board of Elections active voter logs.

There is still time for voters not registered to a party to become Reform members, though."

What is the source for your inference that Astorino will flood the Reform Party with new registrants who will write in his name? Is it Latimer's written statement, from which you quote – or is his written statement merely his response:

“Latimer, a state senator from Rye, said in a statement he was looking ‘to restore civic engagement and transparency’ in Westchester.  
‘These are values that Rob Astorino has taken for granted...,’ Latimer said. ‘No amount of political tricks o[r] party raiding attempts by Astorino will change this,  
and that is why the Reform Party has turned its back on him.”

Surely, if Astorino is flooding the ranks of the Westchester Reform Party with new registrants to achieve a write-in victory on the Reform Party line, Latimer is doing likewise to secure his own write-in victory. And, how about Jenkins, from whom, apparently, you have gotten no comment. Would it be “theft” if he tried to get in on the action by recruiting new Reform Party members who will write in his name on its line? And why have you not mentioned Jenkins as having a stake in any primary other than the Democratic primary as a challenger to Latimer. Indeed, is nothing happening on the “write-in” front with respect to the Working Families, Independence, and Women’s Equality lines, which, as you report, Latimer has, in addition to the Reform Party line.

To assist in your investigative follow-up of the candidates and the parties – and germane to all the foregoing – attached is my OPEN LETTER, as director of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), entitled “**The NYS Reform Party of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator George Latimer for Westchester County Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit – Unless they Deem Corruption in Office a Qualification**”. It was sent yesterday, by the below e-mail, to candidates Latimer, Astorino, and Jenkins – and all eight recognized political parties.

In furtherance of our common goal of furnishing the electorate in Westchester county and throughout the state with the information essential to its casting intelligent votes in the September 12<sup>th</sup> primary and November 7<sup>th</sup> general elections, I am available to answer your questions and to be interviewed, directly, not through a spokesperson or by written statement.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2017 12:27 PM

**To:** 'curtis@curtissliwa.com' <[curtis@curtissliwa.com](mailto:curtis@curtissliwa.com)>; 'PopulistReformNY@gmail.com' <[PopulistReformNY@gmail.com](mailto:PopulistReformNY@gmail.com)>; 'mjmesq@aol.com' <[mjmesq@aol.com](mailto:mjmesq@aol.com)>; 'rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com' <[rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com](mailto:rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com)>; 'morano@nycradio.com' <[morano@nycradio.com](mailto:morano@nycradio.com)>

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**Subject:** OPEN LETTER: The NYS Reform Part of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator

**Geo. Latimer for Westchester Co. Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit -- Unless They Deem Corruption in Office a Qualification**

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability's OPEN LETTER of today's date entitled "**The NYS Reform Party of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator George Latimer for Westchester County Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit – Unless they Deem Corruption in Office a Qualification**", herewith sent to ALL eight recognized political parties and to the three candidates seeking election/re-election to the office of Westchester County Executive: Messrs. Latimer, Astorino, and Jenkins.

The OPEN LETTER is already posted on CJA's website, [www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org), accessible *via* the prominent link "**OUTING CORRUPT & COLLUSIVE INCUMBENTS & Ending their Road to Re-Election & Higher Office in 2017, 2018, & Beyond – WITH EVIDENCE**". The direct link to the webpage for the letter, which also furnishes THE EVIDENCE on which it is based, is here:  
<http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/ending-the-road-latimer.htm>.

I am available to answer questions, under oath, and to assist you to the max, toward what should be our common goal of open, honest, fiscally-responsible, responsive, and accountable government, such as we do NOT remotely have on the state level... You can change that!

Thank you.

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