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EXPERIENCE

Board Secretary, Monroe County Board of Elections, Rochester, NY (2009 – Present) | Working under the leadership of commissioner Thomas F. Ferrarese, serving as the Board of Elections Secretary. Our agency mission is the responsibility for administering all aspects of elections in Monroe County to maintain and facilitate participation in a democratic system of government. The Monroe County Board of Elections conducts all national, state, county, city, and town elections. The structure of this agency, its responsibilities and duties are mandated by New York State Election Law.

This includes the administrative and technical support to the Commissioner as well as the entire board staff and departments, cross training to provide administrative support as needed. Administration of process includes advising, counseling and assisting candidates from all parties in receiving correct and complete information relative to the petitioning process from start to finish, careful review of submissions to avoid potential errors in filings, timely submissions to insure accuracy of critical timeframes necessary to solidify fair process and elections.

Additionally, support candidates in obtaining information and assistance in opening, maintaining, and filing of campaign finance reports and documents, working with New York state BOE officials to eliminate potential filing errors. Supplying necessary materials to candidates and the public and media relative to BOE operations and accurately recording transactions and payment processing for materials and requests. Responsibilities include coordinating and scheduling of the calendars for Commissioners, office operations, filing dates, and staff time off requests. Ensure privacy and security of personnel related documentation and office materials.

Worked during and through the 2010 Census which ultimately resulted in the redrawing of the election district lines within Monroe County and across the nation. An understanding of the need for institutional knowledge insured that office operations continued to run efficiently and effectively and changes to the software, districts, forms, and maps were done accurately and efficiently as a result.

Understands and upholds the Mission Statement of the Board of Elections, and the value and importance of making certain that the sanctity of every vote is always our top priority. I have made it my personal mission to make certain that every individual who expresses their desire to learn more about the registration process, voting, machines, process and candidacy is provided with all of the information critical for them to make informed decisions. Making certain accurate and current information is made available only assists our voters in understanding the role and dedication the Board of Elections performs each and every day of the year – not just on an Election Day.

Have prepared many of the presentations for public demonstration regarding registering to vote, absentee ballots and their role and purpose, and the role cybersecurity now has in our ever-changing election process, a role that will only increase over time.

Democratic Election Inspector Training Coordinator, Monroe County Board of Elections, Rochester, NY (2008 – 2009) | Democratic Election Inspector Training Coordinator during the transition from the lever machines to the ballot marking device machines currently in use for our Elections. During this period, the Board of Elections was under subpoena from the US Department of Justice to implement the machines to allow all individuals to vote independently and without assistance. In addition to hiring and training over 850 new inspectors to facilitate the need, 2008 was also the year that a 16,000-voter registration record was broken when then Democratic candidate Barack Obama first ran for President of the United States. The election was held without ANY issue, and the new machines and the procedures for their use has continued for the past decade without issue.

Performed hands-on training with the disability rights community to allow voters who would utilize new technology for voting to feel comfortable and confident that the new systems would facilitate their need to vote independently and without assistance in accordance with the laws, but also to address any potential concerns and ideas to help create a system in place today that meets and exceeds the needs of our voting community.

Promoted to work as Secretary of the Board of Elections under Commissioner Thomas F. Ferrarese in 2009 while continuing to oversee operations in the Inspector Training division. The promotion was due to a vacancy caused in the retirement of then Secretary Loretta Fedele and Deputy Commissioner Sheila Fleischauer. During this same period, a transition of the software utilized to operate the Board of Elections was underway, and the need for organizational as well as technical comprehension was critical to the many new changes underway to meet the criteria established by the federal and state governments with compliance following changes to elections procedures to ensure the protection of our vote.

Performed troubleshooting from an end-user perspective on new system software and writing of procedures to streamline staff efficiency in operations throughout major changes. Reported software deficiencies or procedural failures directly to Commissioner who in turn recommended said changes to the software manufacturer. Recommended changes were implemented and incorporated into the design of the software increasing efficiency and ease of use, while decreasing potential of errors by end users state-wide.

Licensing and Investigations Official, New York State Racing and Wagering Board, Canandaigua, NY (1987 – 1994 / 2006-2008) | Serving under Governors Mario Cuomo, Elliott Spitzer, Michael Paterson. Reporting to New York State Steward Joseph C. O’Dea, DVM to ensure that New York State’s legalized pari-mutuel operations and facilities operate with integrity and are in full compliance with New York state law to safeguard the best interests of the public, including the taxpayers and patrons and licensed individuals participating in or benefiting from legalized wagering to operate with the utmost professionalism and in accordance with NYS Racing Law.

Responsibilities included background checks and occupational licensing of all participants and employees at the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Racing operations, drug testing of human and equine participants as warranted, and confirmation of licensing and insurance regulations daily. Worked with all levels of local, state and federal law enforcement and agencies across the US to ensure integrity.

Staff Volunteer Coordinator, Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, Rochester Regional Office, Rochester, NY (1986 - 1987) Employed by National Voter Contact in Washington, DC as staff volunteer coordinator for the subsequent election of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter to office. Responsibilities included working with volunteers and various labor and civic groups to coordinate volunteer, phone banking, and fundraising activities on behalf of Louise Slaughter, one of the greatest representatives our area has ever known.

LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

- Former Leader of the East Rochester Democratic Committee
- Ran for Mayor of East Rochester
- Ran for Town Board – 3rd Ward, Greece, New York
- Campaign coordinator for the election of the first Democratic Mayor in East Rochester in decades. East Rochester has continued to elect Democrats and increase Dem registration significantly since.
- Grassroots campaign leader for East Rochester Residents for Pure Water, successfully closing the toxic public water supply wells with permanent conversion to the Monroe County Pure Waters supply
- Fought for and achieved a moratorium against conversion of single-family homes in East Rochester to double homes, helping to increase quality of life and hold a moratorium on tax increases in the 4th highest tax community in the United States after equalization.
- Fought corruption in Greece, New York exposing the activities of the Town Assessor, Chief of Police, and two police officers, ultimately resulting in their removal from office and incarceration.
- Work with community groups to assist in voter registration drives and participation, especially amongst our youth. Most recent participation included students at East High School, where 3 generations of new voters registered and voted for the very first time.
- Have volunteered, created, or provided technical assistance, creation of website and social media profiles for many Democratic candidates spanning volumes of years including:
 - Monroe County Surrogate Court - Judge Christopher Ciaccio
 - Monroe County Legislator candidate Ricky Frazier
 - Monroe County Family Court Judge candidate Maritza Buitrago
 - County Legislator Ernest Flagler
 - County Legislator candidate Dan Maloney
 - Penfield Town Court Judge candidate Mike Lingle
 - County Legislator Anthony Micciche
 - NYS Assemblywoman Jamie Romeo
 - Monroe County Family Court Judge Fatimat Reid
 - Monroe County Family Court Judge candidate Zuleika Shepard
 - NYS Assembly candidate Dave Garretson
 - Monroe County Clerk candidate Tom Hasman
- Additional successful campaigns in Sussex County, New Jersey for friends and family members resulting in first county wide and statewide change to Democratic control
- Webmaster for the NYS Election Commissioners Association

- Creation of Electronic Election Day Manual for Commissioner use on tablets on Election Day
- Creator of public presentations on voter registration, cybersecurity, and informative programs relative to changes in Election laws and procedures
- Creator and designer of sample ballots, coloring books and voting programs for schools across Monroe County to teach children the value of voting
- Content creator and updates and graphics designer for the Monroe County Board of Elections website

Grassroots activism on environmental issues through my online presence named “Real Coastal Warriors”, taking on BP during the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 and continuing for a decade to work with US DOJ officials resulting in 14 felony counts against the corporation, no settlement for their crimes which mandated full disclosure of their damage, and the largest penalty in US history for the worst man-made environmental disaster in the history of the US.

Additional grassroots activism with my website and social media presence for “Justice for Cecil the Lion”, dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wildlife, and the elimination of trophy hunting and poaching globally. Daily page reach is approximately 4 million people, effective at producing change and increasing awareness for endangered species. This includes the ban by 42 airlines of animal trophy shipments, and working with both New Jersey Senator Raymond Lesniak and Jerry Nadler, securing the closure of the ports of entry on the East Coast for incoming shipments of trophies. Advocacy continued with the closure of Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus in 2017, and continued rescues around the globe of abandoned zoo animals in war zones for transfer to sanctuaries and safety.

EDUCATION:

Coursework in Computer Science at St. John Fisher College (did not matriculate due to demands of motherhood and career)

Multiple professional courses in management, personnel, and ethics

PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY REFERENCES:

When the press reported that Commissioner Colleen Anderson would be accepting a position with the Bello Administration, I was encouraged by many to consider applying for the position of Commissioner, including many of my co-workers at the Board of Elections who know my work ethic, my level of experience and expertise, and my problem solving and leadership abilities. I have also encouraged by many community leaders, individuals whom I respect greatly including:

Dan Maloney, President, United Auto Workers 1097
 President of the Rochester Labor Federation,
 221 Dewey Ave, Rochester, NY
 585-944-7949

Ken Preston, Founder – Rochester for Obama and Grassroots Activism
 23 Villa Nova Rd, Rochester, NY
 585-478-5561

Sheila Abeling, Election Services / Naturalizations
League of Women Voters, Rochester, NY
585-223-6819

Mary Hussong-Kallen, Former President
League of Women Voters, Rochester, NY
585-729-5183