

Make a plan to vote

I'm sure you know that this year is a presidential election year. Presidential election coverage always captivates the country – driving higher voter turnout compared to non-presidential years. But what you may not know is that several important state and local elections are also on the ballot this year, including races for New York Assembly, county district attorney, county family court, as well as state and local ballot propositions. In total, Clarence voters have 11 decisions to make this year – and I encourage you to educate yourself on the issues and make your voice heard on every single one.

To do that, I recommend making a plan to vote. Start by checking your voter registration status and deciding how you want to cast your ballot. In New York, you must be registered to vote by Saturday, Oct. 26, to participate in this election. The Erie County Board of Elections website (elections.erie.gov) is a great resource where you can easily check your registration status or learn how to register if you haven't yet done so.

There are three ways to cast your ballot this

year: early in-person voting, absentee voting, and in-person voting on Election Day.

Early voting is open to all registered voters from Saturday, Oct. 26, through Sunday, Nov. 3. Clarence's early voting site is Uriel Hall at Our Lady of Peace in the Hollow, but you can vote early at any polling site across the county. If you're unable to vote in person, you can request an absentee ballot from the county board of elections. The deadline to receive your absentee request to the county board of elections is Oct. 26. Absentee ballots must be postmarked or submitted to the board of elections by Election Day to be counted. And finally, if you plan to vote on Election Day, you'll need to vote at your designated polling site. Clarence has eight polling locations, which you can also find on the county board of elections website.

Finally, there's a phenomenon in presidential years called "down-ballot drop-off," where peo-

ple vote for federal candidates but ignore local races. If that's how you wish to cast your ballot, it is completely within your right to do so, but often people don't vote down the ballot because they don't know enough about local candidates to make a decision. You can prepare by viewing your sample ballot before you vote on the Board of Elections website.

I'd like to highlight a couple of races that aren't getting much attention this year but are the most consequential local elections on the ballot. This year the Clarence Democratic Committee is proud to support acting District Attorney Mike Keane, and judges Kara Buscaglia and Jeff Harrington for Erie County Family Court. Each candidate brings a wealth of practicing experience to these positions and will fight to uphold justice and protect Erie County's families. You can learn more about all the candidates we support by visiting our website (clarencenydems.com). Stay informed and make your voice heard.



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**CLARENCE
DEMOCRATIC
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