

# *Fall campaign in full swing*

## Candidates should pledge fair campaigns

For the next two months, well, you know the drill: It's politicians and promises, practically 24/7 as the fall campaign season is officially underway now that Labor Day has come and gone.

This year, there are races for governor, lieutenant governor, state comptroller, attorney general, the state Legislature and Congress. There are also those all-important local contests for everything from town supervisor, village mayor, county Legislature to judgeships.

As voters survey the landscape and settle in amid an avalanche of expensive, slick, TV sound bytes otherwise known as political ads, they need to keep in mind that self-education on issues and candidates works best.

Follow campaign news stories in this newspaper and at [democratandchronicle.com](http://democratandchronicle.com), visit the local League of Women Voters guide ([lwv-rma.org](http://lwv-rma.org)) and get involved by organizing candidate debates, forums and demanding that candidates show up.

Too, voters should insist that candidates sign the league's Fair Campaign Pledge, which seemingly fewer candidates sign each election cycle. A public pledge ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday at the Monroe County Office Building. Look to see which candidates show up and which don't. That's a good clue about how they will run their campaign. And if they break the pledge, keep that in mind when you go to the polls.

Candidates should not only sign the pledge but they should make it clear that they will not be party to any intervention into their campaign by outsiders like the ones who paid for attack ads in the state Senate race between Democrat Ted O'Brien and Republican Sean Hanna two years ago. To this day, no one is certain who was behind the campaign ads that favored Hanna, who subsequently lost to O'Brien.

There is no shortage of issues in this year's races. On the federal level, there is the threat of an escalating war in Iraq and American intervention in Ukraine, for instance.

In the race for governor, voters must decide whether they're satisfied with the performance of Gov. Andrew Cuomo after nearly four years of shaping what he'd promised would be a new New York.

Locally, there are bread-and-butter issues such as property taxes, trash and leaf pickups. Get informed. Vote.

