



For Immediate release  
May 15, 2012

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## **Candidate College Demonstrates How Anyone Can Run for Elected Office**

### **National, Local Experts Gather in Buffalo to Share Expertise from Across the Political Spectrum**

**Partnership for Public Good, YWCA of WNY, Inc. partner with NY Civic and NY Policy Forum to offer Candidate College June 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Buffalo, NY: Partnership for Public Good (PPG), YWCA of WNY, New York Civic, *City & State* newspaper, and New York Policy Forum will present a Candidate College in June. The Candidate College is non-partisan and has no ideological litmus test to participate. It is meant to provide those interested in running for public office, or those interested in participating in a campaign in other ways, the knowledge they need to run. Men and women are welcome to participate. The goal is simple: increase the number of strong, well-prepared candidates running for elected office at every level.

**Date: Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**When: 8:30-5:00 PM**

**Where: YWCA of WNY 1005 Grant Street (bet. Amherst and Military)**

Topics will include nuts-and-bolts issues like fundraising, advertising, and canvassing, as well as important considerations such as the effect of campaigning (and winning) on a candidate's spouse and family. To get more information or to register call YWCA of WNY at 716.852.6120 ext. 122 or email [info@ywca-wny.org](mailto:info@ywca-wny.org). Also find details at [www.ywca-wny.org](http://www.ywca-wny.org) and <http://www.ppgbuffalo.org/>

The YWCA of WNY candidate school (Institute for Public Leadership, or IPL) has a long history with over 500 graduates in WNY, including many women in elected office in Western New York and many, many staff members. Among the program's graduates are Congresswoman Kathy Hochul, Judge Barbara Howe, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin, County Leg Lynn Marinelli, Barbara Miller Williams, and many others. The IPL was a national YWCA program with the YWCA of WNY having the largest program in the country – one that was used as model by many other YWCAs.

"YWCA of WNY partnered with PPG, New York Civic, *City & State*, and the New York Policy Forum this year because these organizations bring resources and expertise to the table that can make the program stronger," said Deborah Lynn Williams CEO of YWCA of WNY. While past

candidate classes have been women-only, this one-day class will be for both men and women with women-only follow-up sessions focusing on women-specific issues in running for office.

Anyone interested in running for office in Western New York will get the chance to learn from a host of national and local experts. Sam Magavern, Co-Director of PPG, said, "The Candidate College is designed to give newcomers of any political persuasion the tools they need for a successful election campaign."

Presenters include famed political consultants such as Roger Stone and Jerry Skurnik, local politicians such as Sen. Mark Grisanti and Leg. Betty Jean Grant, and media experts such as Margaret Sullivan (*Buffalo News* editor) and Geoff Kelly (*ArtVoice* editor). Former state legislator Mary Lou Rath will deliver opening remarks.

Other confirmed presenters and moderators include Syracuse City Council Member Helen Hudson, Erie County Legislator Kevin Hardwick, Common Cause NY Executive Director Susan Lerner, former WGRZ reporter and Buffalo Public Schools and County Executive spokesperson Stefan Mychajliw, City & State editor-in-chief Morgan Pehme, political strategic and fundraiser Eli Mundy, Erie County Republican Party Chair Nick Langworthy, and lobbyist and former Deputy County Executive Carl Calabrese.

**New York Civic** recently held a highly successful candidate college in New York City, drawing a star-studded group of presenters and a large audience. An archive of that event, including video of the entire day, as well as successive entries in the series, can be seen at [www.nycivic.org/story/candidate-college](http://www.nycivic.org/story/candidate-college). Founded in 2002 by former NYC Parks Commissioner and Councilman-at-large Henry J. Stern, New York Civic has spent the last ten years advocating reform for the people of New York State, while building a community of over 15,000 citizens interested in implementing good government reforms. New York Civic regularly hosts live events and produces innovative content aimed at educating and engaging the public in civic matters including, to date, over 800 articles directed at making government more honest, efficient, and effective. For more information about New York Civic, go to [www.nycivic.org](http://www.nycivic.org)

**New York Policy Forum** is a non-partisan, non-profit organization founded to promote discussion about timely and important topics of interest to influential New York audiences. Founded by Buffalo expatriate Jonathan Cohen, its public forums feature expert panels and speakers on a wide range of issues spanning public policy, human rights, education, and the arts. <http://www.newyorkpolicyforum.com/>

**City & State** is the only publication in New York devoted solely to covering government and politics in the city and state. Formed from the merger of *City Hall* and *The Capitol* newspapers, *City & State* provides insightful and detailed coverage of the politics, the policies and the people that drive New York. [www.CityandStateNY.com](http://www.CityandStateNY.com)

The **Partnership for the Public Good** does public policy research and advocacy for over 100 partner organizations. [www.ppgbuffalo.org/](http://www.ppgbuffalo.org/)

The **YWCA of Western New York, Inc.** is a non-profit agency that has been in existence for 142 years. We continue to serve the public of Western New York with our variety of programs including early childhood and at-risk youth education, child care, domestic violence housing and counseling, and senior housing. [www.ywca-wny.org](http://www.ywca-wny.org)