

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 4:17 PM
To: 'curtis@curtissliwa.com'; 'PopulistReformNY@gmail.com'; 'mjmesq@aol.com'; 'rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com'; 'morano@nycradio.com'
Cc: 'Cartagena, Nicholas (ELECTIONS)'
Subject: Complaint/ELECTION LAW VIOLATIONS & FRAUD: Reform Party's Endorsement/Designation of DiNapoli for Comptroller
Attachments: 8-10-17-open-ltr.pdf

TO: Curtis Sliwa, Chair/NYS Reform Party

The Reform Party's website, <https://www.nyreformparty.com/>, is significantly changed from what it had been on August 10, 2017, when I sent you my attached OPEN LETTER, transmitted by the below e-mail. It is also significantly changed from what it had been on January 24, 2018, when I checked it as I wrote an e-mail to the Working Families Party, suggesting that it modify its website to include party rules—such as were posted on the Reform Party's website and the Green Party's website.

Among the changes: the Reform Party's rules are gone. Indeed, the now very spare Reform Party website consists of a homepage — on which is emblazoned, with your photo, the sole news item: "Chairman CURTIS SLIWA considering a run for NYS GOVERNOR -- <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/radio-host-curtis-sliwa-mulling-reform-party-gubernatorial-run-article-1.3956424>" — plus, in addition to the "Home" tab, a tab marked "Questionnaires" and a tab marked "Party Platform". The "Questionnaires" tab furnishes six different questionnaires, including "Governor", "Comptroller", "State Legislative" — without the slightest explanatory content. The tab marked "Party Platform" is just that. There is no tab for "Party Leadership", identifying anyone. Nor is there a tab marked "Contact". Indeed, there is NO contact information on the website. In order to find even a mailing or e-mailing address for the Reform Party, it is necessary to open the pdf of one of the six questionnaires.

Gone, too, from the Reform Party's website is any mention of endorsements. This, notwithstanding a very significant endorsement appears on Comptroller DiNapoli's campaign website: <http://dinapoli2018.com/>. Entitled "[Reform Party Executive Committee Endorses Tom DiNapoli for State Comptroller](#)", it reprints the text of what is apparently a press release from the Reform Party, reading:

"REFORM PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENDORSES TOM DINAPOLI FOR STATE COMPTROLLER

New York State Reform Party
May 2, 2018

(New York, NY) The executive committee of the New York State Reform Party announced today their endorsement of state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli for re-election.

The Reform Party, which focuses on reducing the interest of special interests, bringing a non-partisan approach to government and restoring fiscal sanity to Albany praised DiNapoli's independent, apolitical stewardship of the pension fund and **his record as a champion for New York taxpayers.**

Reform Party Chairman Curtis Sliwa cited the DiNapoli endorsement as an example of the party choosing the best candidates irrespective of party. 'We're going to choose

the best candidates on the merits. That will include Republicans, Democrats and independents.’

In accepting the party’s endorsement, Comptroller DiNapoli added ‘I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Reform Party’s Executive Committee. The Reform Party seeks to change New York for the better. We share the goal of bringing accountability and transparency to state government’.

Citing DiNapoli’s history of refusing to bend to the political winds, state Reform Party spokesman, Frank Morano said ‘Tom DiNapoli is a model public servant and embodies the non-partisan approach to government that all elected officials should seek to emulate. The Comptroller’s office shouldn’t be a platform for political grandstanding’.

The full state committee of the Reform Party will be having their convention in Nassau County on May 20th to formally nominate candidates for Comptroller, Attorney General, Governor and Lt. Governor.

Tom DiNapoli became state Comptroller in 2007 and was re-elected in 2010 and 2014. The state Reform Party achieved ballot status in 2014.” (bold added).

No press releases are posted on the Reform Party’s website, including the above. Nor does the website post any information about the executive committee – in contrast to the webpage entitled “Executive Committee Members”, previously accessible from the website, but now gone, though curiously obtainable *via* a google search on the internet: <https://www.nyreformparty.com/endorsements>.

As Election Law §2-100 requires that each party have “a state committee, county committees, and such other committees as the rules of the party may allow” – in other words, leaving to party rules the establishment of any other committee, as an “executive committee”, kindly furnish me with a copy of the Reform Party rules so that I might know what it says about the composition and function of the executive committee. Additionally, please furnish me with the names of the current members of the executive committee, as likewise of the state committee – and their contact information.

Also, please answer yes or not as to whether you forwarded my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER to ALL members of the executive committee – or to the members of the state committee. 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 furnished EVIDENCE establishing that the Reform Party’s endorsement of Senator Latimer was substantively indefensible – as would be endorsement, in the 2018 elections, of Governor Cuomo, Attorney General Schneiderman, Comptroller DiNapoli, and incumbent Senate and Assembly members because all had to be indicted for “‘grand larceny of the public fisc’ and other corruption” – with the open-and-shut, *prima facie* EVIDENCE laid out by a citizen-taxpayer action against them involving commission-based judicial/district attorney pay raises and the state budget – and by corruption and ethics complaints that prosecutorial and disciplinary authorities have been “sitting” on, since 2013.

And did you forward my substantial subsequent correspondence to ALL executive committee members? Were they aware of my August 30, 2017 e-mail requesting a meeting with you, including “a telephone hook-up for ALL members of the Reform Party’s Executive Committee” so that “None should be ‘in the dark’ about what is before the Reform Party – and the turning-point it represents for the party – and the long-suffering People of the State of New York.”

Of course, you were not the only Reform Party recipient of my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER and subsequent correspondence. I simultaneously sent everything to “Reform Party spokesman” Morano and to Matthew Mari, Esq. – both of whose names I found on your then “Executive Committee Members” webpage as being the secretary and second vice-chairperson, respectively – and whose contact information I was able to find from a google search. Additionally, I sent everything to the Reform Party’s law chair, Richard Lothmann, Esq., whose name and position I discovered from another Reform Party webpage – and with whom I directly spoke on August 10, 2017, following his paltry and non-responsive e-mail to me and from whom I never heard back thereafter.

Indeed, my initial contact was with Mr. Morano, and following our very brief phone conversation on August 7, 2017, I sent him an e-mail, cc'ing you and Messrs. Mari and Lothermann, stating:

“...it is urgent that I speak with you, as soon as possible, about problems with New York State Reform Party endorsements, both procedurally and substantively – and the spectacular opportunity these present for the New York State Reform Party, under Curtis Sliwa’s straight-shooting leadership, to rise above the other political parties and showcase why the People of New York State should be building the party by becoming Reform Party members – and candidates.”

Mr. Morano never called me back.

Kindly e-mail me the Independence Party’s rules and its application and vetting procedures for candidates seeking its designation to run on the Independence Party line – and identify what investigation, if any, you and Messrs. Morano, Mari, and Luthmann made of the EVIDENCE of Comptroller DiNapoli’s corruption, referred-to and furnished by my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER – and what were your findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect thereto. Additionally, and inasmuch as there is no confidential information in the “Comptroller” questionnaire that Comptroller DiNapoli was presumably required to fill out, other than his home address and phone number, which can be redacted, will the Reform Party release his answers in substantiation of its executive committee’s May 2, 2018 endorsement of him.

As you know, the Reform Party’s “endorsing” of a candidate is a euphemism for its designating the candidate to run on the party’s line – a fact reflected by the title of my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER.

In that connection, I draw to your attention to Election Law §6-104(6) entitled “Party designation; statewide office”, which the executive committee’s May 2, 2018 endorsement of DiNapoli as the Reform Party candidate for comptroller violated, by letter and spirit, both:

“The meeting of the state committee for the purpose of designating candidates shall be held not earlier than twenty-one days before the first day to sign designating petitions and not later than the first day to sign designating petitions for the primary election.”

Surely the Independence Party is advised by Election Law attorneys, aside from Mr. Lothmann, who perhaps no longer serves as Reform Party law chair by reason of his federal indictment in December 2017 on charges including fraud and extortion. What do they say? And what say the members of the Independence Party’s executive committee, state committee, and its county chairs – to whom I request you forward this e-mail, which, for their convenience and yours, will be posted on CJA’s webpage for the Reform Party, here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/parties/reform-party.htm>. That is where is my prior correspondence to you and Messrs. Morano, Mari, and Lothmann are also posted.

To encourage your response, a copy of this e-mail is being sent to the New York State Board of Elections, in support of my oral complaint against the Reform Party, made yesterday.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 12:27 PM

To: 'curtis@curtissliwa.com' <curtis@curtissliwa.com>; 'PopulistReformNY@gmail.com' <PopulistReformNY@gmail.com>; 'mjmesq@aol.com' <mjmesq@aol.com>; 'rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com' <rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com>; 'morano@nycradio.com' <morano@nycradio.com>
Cc: 'pleber@workingfamilies.org' <pleber@workingfamilies.org>; 'nywomensequalityparty@gmail.com' <nywomensequalityparty@gmail.com>; 'frankmackay@yahoo.com' <frankmackay@yahoo.com>; 'tj.wcdems@gmail.com' <tj.wcdems@gmail.com>; 'chairman@westchestergop.com' <chairman@westchestergop.com>; 'ff607@optonline.net' <ff607@optonline.net>; 'chair2@gpny.org' <chair2@gpny.org>; 'sec@gpny.org' <sec@gpny.org>; 'michaelvlawler@gmail.com' <michaelvlawler@gmail.com>; 'profmerrell@optonline.net' <profmerrell@optonline.net>; 'latimer@nysenate.gov' <latimer@nysenate.gov>; 'mallison@nysenate.gov' <mallison@nysenate.gov>; 'Peter Loughran' <loughran@nysenate.gov>; 'wmurphy@nysenate.gov' <wmurphy@nysenate.gov>; 'kenjenkins01@gmail.com' <kenjenkins01@gmail.com>; 'ce@westchestergov.com' <ce@westchestergov.com>

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, 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.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org