Who deserves your vote? Guide can help you decide

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Staff writer

Not sure what to expect at the polls in New York's Sept. 9 primary election?

The League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metro Area will post details for local voters on Monday at Vote411.org. Voters can enter their address on the website to find a guide to races in their area and see a sample ballot.

The guide gives voters an easy way to learn about elections, said Barbara Grosh, the league's director of voting services.

"When you think about a voter, how do they figure out even what races they're going to be voting in?" Grosh said. "You have to be relatively well-informed to even know who your representatives are at the county level."

The guide will include candidate profiles for several local primaries, including the 135th Assembly District, where incumbent Republican Mark Johns faces a challenge from Calvin Frelier; the 29th district of the Monroe County Legislature, where Democrats Leslie Rivera and Ernest Flagler will face off; and a three-way race for City Court judge among Democrats Leticia Astacio, William Gargan and Michael Lopez.

The website already offers profiles for candidates in the governor and lieutenant governor races.

Other election information, including how to register to vote, also is available on the website. The candidate profiles include responses to questions from the League of Women Voters. Grosh said the league typically asks political parties how to contact candidates and then sends them questionnaires directly. The Monroe County Democratic Committee usually agrees, but the county GOP generally declines and says it will contact candidates on the league's behalf, she said.

The league ends up hearing back from fewer Republican candidates than it would like, Grosh said.

"That kind of limits the voters who will find it useful," she said.

Monroe County Republican Chairman Bill Reilich said the party does inform candidates about the league's request.

"If the candidates don't want to fill out the information sheet for their guide, that's their prerogative," he said.

BARBARA GROSH
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