

**Subscribe Now**  
[http://offers.lohud.com/specialoffer?](http://offers.lohud.com/specialoffer?gps-source=BENB&utm_medium=nanobarap1&utm_source=bounce-exchange&utm_campaign=2018DO30CENTS)  
 gps-  
 source=BENB&utm\_medium=nanobarap1&utm\_source=bounce-  
 exchange&utm\_campaign=2018DO30CENTS)

## Westchester County legislator's mother lands six-figure job in new budget he voted for

Mark Lungariello, [mlungariello@lohud.com](mailto:mlungariello@lohud.com) Published 9:01 a.m. ET Feb. 2, 2018 | Updated 7:49 a.m. ET Feb. 4, 2018

*Two former Westchester lawmakers are among those who received Board of Elections jobs.*



(Photo: File photo by Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

WHITE PLAINS – One Westchester County lawmaker's mother ended up with a six-figure elections job that was created as part of the 2018 budget he voted for.

But Legislator David Tubiolo, a Yonkers Republican, denied having any prior knowledge that his mother, Barbara Tubiolo, was in line for the position.

"The prospect of my Mother's future employment with Westchester County was never a consideration in how I voted," he said in a statement. He said there "was no discussion or consideration" that his mother would take the job at the Board of Elections when he voted for the budget on Dec. 11 and voted to override a veto of the budget on Dec. 21.

**PROBE: Harrison rejects fire captain election after sex harassment claims** (</story/news/local/westchester/2018/01/26/george-latimer-executive-order-comes-after-corruption-probe/1068838001/>)

**UNSOLVED: Was 'Son of Sam' behind 'Westchester Dartman' attacks?** (</story/news/crime/2017/12/30/son-sam-behind-westchester-dartman-attacks/961724001/>)

**CHAPLAINS: Latimer executive order comes after corruption trial** (</story/news/local/westchester/2018/01/26/george-latimer-executive-order-comes-after-corruption-probe/1068838001/>)

Barbara Tubiolo, who is also the executive director of the county GOP, started her \$112,000 job as director of technical support service on Jan. 1, according to county Human Resources records.

She'd previously worked at the Board of Elections before taking a \$100,000-a-year job as an aide to former County Executive Rob Astorino, a Republican who left office at the end of 2017.

The Board of Elections acted as a landing pad for several people who lost their other county jobs, including former legislators Francis Corcoran and Sheila Marcotte, who started \$93,000-a-year jobs as program administrators at the Board of Elections on Jan. 2, the records show.

Corcoran and Marcotte voted against the budget initially, but voted to override a veto (</story/news/local/westchester/2017/12/21/lawmakers-override-astorinos-veto/972637001/>) of the budget (</story/news/local/westchester/2017/12/21/lawmakers-override-astorinos-veto/972637001/>), as one of their last acts before leaving office last year.



David Tubiolo, left, shown during a debate with candidate Christine Peters on WVOX Radio in 2016. (Photo: Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News)



Former Westchester County Legislator Sheila Marcotte (Photo: Joe Larese/The Journal News)

Marcotte, who was a Tuckahoe trustee and Eastchester councilwoman before she became a county lawmaker, called public service “the most gratifying experience” in her professional life.

“I believe working for the public is a privilege and when I was offered an opportunity to work in a different capacity at the Board of Elections I was thankful to be able to continue my service,” she said. “The mission of the Board of Elections in facilitating the democratic process is a noble one.”

Corcoran, a former Bedford councilman who served one two-year term on the county legislature, declined comment.

Buy Photo



Former Legislator Francis Corcoran. (Photo: David McKay Wilson/The Journal News)

## Jobs were coveted

Fourteen new jobs in total for the Board of Elections were created as part of the negotiations for the 2018 budget. Elections board staffing is set in a partisan manner, with a commissioner from each of the two major political parties and staff numbers divvied up between Democrats and Republicans.

The seven Republican slots became highly coveted when a Democratic wave in the 2017 elections shifted the balance of power in Westchester. Former County Executive Astorino was beaten by Democrat George Latimer and Republicans lost three of eight seats on the 17-member legislature.

With Astorino leaving after eight years in office, several of his former staff members, including Barbara Tubiolo, found new employment in the elections board.

ADVERTISEMENT

John Cerino was hired as director of technical support service. T.J. McCormack is now an elections program specialist. Maricelly Velez is now a junior administrative assistant at the board. All three had worked for Astorino.

Doug Colety, Republican commissioner of the elections board, said the jobs were coveted, with many people expressing interest in them. Although he declined to discuss specific job responsibilities for the new hires, he said the board has made pleas for several years for more positions.

"We need the personnel and we're hiring based on merit and I'm hiring based on who I feel is more qualified to do these jobs," he said. "Most people with political experience are the ones that are highly-qualified to do the jobs here."

Reggie LaFayette, the Democratic commissioner of the elections board, said he had promoted several people within the department but hadn't made new hires for this year yet. The Human Resources records didn't show any new hires since January.

## Tax pledge painted budget process

Budget negotiations came against the backdrop of an impending ideological shift in county government. Astorino had spent eight years in office sticking to a pledge to keep the county property tax levy flat.

The tax levy stayed flat or was reduced for each of Astorino's first seven years, but sticking to that pledge became more difficult as staff numbers were reduced and the budget became balanced on one-shot revenues such as the sale of county-owned property and deals with private companies.

Astorino proposed keeping the county property tax levy flat again for 2018, but wanted to include \$30 million from a deal that'd lease out operation of the Westchester County Airport to a private company. That deal has yet to be finalized and some lawmakers scoffed at including that revenue.

During budget negotiations, (/story/news/local/westchester/2017/12/08/westchester-legislature-budget-deal-raises-taxes/936297001/) lawmakers restored funding for several positions that Astorino wanted to cut, including curators in all of the county-owned parks. Originally 20 Board of Elections positions were pitched, but that number was reduced to 14 by the time the legislature passed their budget on Dec. 11.

Legislator Mike Kaplowitz, a Democrat who was the legislature chairman last year, said legislators never discussed who would get the jobs.

Because the budget raised the property-tax levy by 2 percent, a veto from Astorino was expected (/story/news/local/westchester/2017/12/11/westchester-tax-increase/936162001/). To override that veto, lawmakers would need 12 votes. Three Republicans voted in favor of the budget, including Legislator Tubiolo, making the final vote 12-5.

Former Vice Chairman Jim Maisano, a New Rochelle Republican who voted for the budget, said who got jobs wasn't part of the negotiations.

"We never discussed who was getting the jobs, only that the jobs would be created," he said. "Simple as that."

Legislator Tubiolo said in his statement that his own vote for the budget was based solely on concerns from the airport revenue, which he called "speculative at best."

Astorino vetoed the budget (/story/news/local/westchester/2017/12/18/rob-astorino-vetoes-westchester-county-budget/961193001/) and the override vote was unanimous, 17-0. When the executive vetoes a budget, he or she can either veto the entire spending plan or veto it line by line. Astorino vetoed the entire budget, meaning overriding his budget didn't go into specific line items.

If the veto had stood, new County Executive Latimer would've been bound by the 2017 budget which Republican Minority Leader John Testa said at the time would've been fiscally irresponsible.

Follow reporter Mark Lungariello on Facebook @lungariello (<http://facebook.com/lungariello>), and Twitter @marklungariello (<http://twitter.com/marklungariello>).

Read or Share this story: <https://www.lohud.com/story/news/investigations/2018/02/02/westchester-county-legislators-mother-lands-job-budget-he-voted/1048425001/>

