



**PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact:

*Susan Maggiotto, League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns  
914-478-3072 or lwvr-cf@gmail.com*

The League of Women Voters is today announcing the cancellation of the virtual Candidates Forum for NY Assembly District 95 scheduled for Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The Democratic candidate, incumbent Sandra R. Galef, formally accepted the League's invitation, extended on Aug. 30, 2020. The Republican candidate, Lawrence A. Chiulli, accepted the invitation verbally on Sept. 21, 2020. The League has received no further communication from Mr. Chiulli despite repeated requests for confirmation of his intention to participate. Mr. Chiulli was informed by email and telephone message that his failure to respond by Oct. 5, 2020 would result in a cancellation of the forum.

It is the policy of the League of Women Voters to invite all candidates, as listed on ballots, to their respective candidates forums. Should there not be at least two candidates to participate, the League must cancel the forum. However, the League also hopes that any candidate who has declined or been unresponsive, reconsider so the League could potentially reschedule.

Kathy Meany, President of the League of Women Voters of Westchester, said, "During these days when residents of AD 95 have so few options to hear directly from candidates and to address their own questions to them, we find this development disappointing. The League strives to run the forums in a respectful, non-partisan environment that encourages civil discourse. We view the forum as if it were a job interview, so it is troubling that any candidate would not want to take this opportunity to communicate with the people they are seeking to represent."

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*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates political parties. Membership is open to all persons 16 years and older and provides the opportunity to be active and involved in local, state and national issues.*