

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 2025

STATEMENT FROM PUTNAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE CHAIR JENNIFER COLAMONICO REGARDING STATE PARTY ENDORSEMENT REQUEST

After consultation with my executive committee and six town chairs, I have elected to hold off on signing any letter that makes an endorsement in the governor's race that will occur in 2026. For similar reasons, we are not endorsing any CD-17 candidate until much later in the cycle. Those endorsements will come when the time is right, later in the year.

This action is in no way a criticism of Governor Hochul, whom we hold in high regard. Her record is strong, and she is getting better as she goes along. Any challenger bears the burden of proof that they can and would do better. Our voters deserve to help guide our party to put forth the strongest possible candidate against Mike Lawler, whom we see up close and personal on a regular basis. No one should take any of these races for granted given the current climate. And so we don't want to put a thumb on the scale too soon.

Democratic voters have expressed frustration about a party nomination process that does not carefully include input from voters as well as activists and party leaders. The 2026 elections are too important, and we cannot yet know the exact winning strategy. There should be no rush - let's let all candidates make their case, and decide later when we have a more firm pulse on the political heartbeat of our voters.

Right now my priority is to elect the 17 Democrats who have stepped up to run for town and county office across Putnam. We appreciate the past support we had from the NY Dems state party, and we firmly believe that similar or greater investments in Putnam in 2025 will put us in a much stronger position to help elect the eventual nominees for both Governor and for Congress. We welcome support from Governor Hochul, Lt Governor Delgado, Leader Jeffries, all 7 declared CD17 candidates, and anyone else who is serious about strengthening our party at the grassroots.