

Westchester County Democratic Committee

NEW REPORT: ASTORINO SPENDING 20 PERCENT OF HIS TIME OUTSIDE OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY ON PARTISAN POLITICS

Blast County Executive for Deceiving the Voters and Putting His Political Ambitions Before the Job He Promised to do for Four Years

County Leaders: Voters Were Duped

NEW YORK – Westchester County leaders today blasted Rob Astorino for lying to Westchester voters when he promised to serve all four years when clearly he is now more focused on running for Governor than doing the job he was elected to. Three county officials today released a new report showing that Astorino has spent more than 20 percent of his time outside of the county on political trips to gin up support for his run for Governor since being elected.

According to a new analysis of Astorino’s travel schedule, the county executive has been absent from Westchester on 14 out of 67 business days since his re-election – nearly 21 percent of the time. Since his new term began on January 1, Astorino has left the County on six out of 30 business days, or 20 percent of the time.

However, upon running for reelection, Rob Astorino promised he would serve another full term—four years—as County Executive. In the first 2013 County Executive debate, Astorino stated: “I’m very proud of what we’ve accomplished over the last four years, and I ask for another four years to continue down our path of a balanced, healthy approach to Westchester County.” (Westchester County Executive Debate, 18:20, [10/2/13](#)). And, in his closing statement during the second 2013 County Executive debate, Astorino said: “I thank you for your opportunity for these four years, and I look forward to another term.” (Westchester County Executive Debate, 1:18:12, [10/16/13](#))

On January 23, Astorino laid out his agenda for his second term. In his [speech](#) to the Westchester County Association, Astorino discussed his plan to work with the County Legislature on \$270 million in capital improvement projects this year, including establishing a bus rapid transit system and retail and offices along the I-287 corridor. After years of delaying approval for essential capital projects for the county, he is absent in seeing them implemented.

County leaders have questioned how Astorino will implement these initiatives and others given his ongoing absences from the County.

“While Mr. Astorino has been racking up frequent flier miles, Westchester county has been left out to dry,” said **Ken Jenkins, former Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators**. “We have a County Executive who is essentially working a four-day week, and that’s not going to get the job done for Westchester residents. If Rob Astorino wants to travel the state and run for Governor, that’s his right—but we deserve better. We deserve someone who is fighting to create jobs for middle class families and

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business owners. Rob Astorino has not been serving the people. He has been serving his own political ambitions.”

It appears as if Rob Astorino has forgotten that his first responsibility is to the people of Westchester,” said **Peter Harckam, Member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators**. “Instead of taking care of business here in the county, he has been travelling to fundraisers and meeting with political groups around the state and country, while Westchester taxpayers are left with the bill. Its time we remind Rob Astorino of his responsibility to the people who elected him in the first place.”

“Even though Rob Astorino campaigned on the promise that he would serve a full term, he has spent more than 20 percent of his time, since his swearing in, out of the county, and therefore, out of touch with the people of Westchester,” said **Tim Idoni, Westchester County Clerk**. “We have too many issues in this county— job creation, education, infrastructure —that need our immediate attention. If Rob Astorino doesn’t have time for us, then he should think twice about whether or not he wants this job.”

Since his re-election, Astorino has attended a slew of fundraisers and other political events outside Westchester County, including:

November 6-8: Somos El Futuro Conference In Puerto Rico. “Fresh off his election night victory for a second term, Republican Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino was in Puerto Rico to attend the Somos El Futuro conference ... Somos is a destination not just for politicians fresh off victories, but those who have ambitions. And it’s not like a Westchester county executive would want to simply address a broader audience following a re-election victory just for the fun of it.” (New York State of Politics, [1/8/14](#))

November 20-21: RGA Conference In Arizona. “Astorino spent an hour behind closed doors with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and their wives. The private talk between the two couples was among the high-profile meetings Astorino held at the Republican Governors Association this week in Phoenix.” (The Journal News, [11/21/13](#))

December 12: Traveled To D.C. To Meet With New York’s Republican Delegation. “Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino was in Washington, D.C. for a day of meetings Wednesday, as he ponders a gubernatorial run against Andrew Cuomo. A Republican source in D.C. told me Astorino huddled with Republicans in the New York delegation to discuss the topic ... there was no fundraiser.” (Capital New York, [12/12/13](#))

December 16: Attended A Toy Drive Held By The Republican Leaders In The South Bronx. “You should know that Christmas came a little early this year as New York State's Republican leaders descended upon the South Bronx like Santa Claus at a very special event held on December 16, 2013, where close to 2,000 children received over 2,000 free Christmas toys. ... You should know that this event was co-hosted by yours truly, Senator Reverend Rubén Díaz, along with the New York State Republican Party Chairman Ed Cox, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, and Mr. Rafael Salamanca, District Manager of Community Planning Board #2. We were impressed that Westchester County

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Executive Rob Astorino and New York State's Senate Republican Majority Leader Senator Dean Skelos joined us to celebrate Christmas in the Bronx.” (New York State Senate Press Release, [12/17/13](#))

December 18: Traveled To Buffalo To Attend The Erie County GOP Holiday Dinner And Fundraiser. “Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino [was] in Buffalo today, meeting with Republican leaders and attending an Erie County GOP holiday dinner tonight as he considers a run for governor.” (The Journal News, [12/18/13](#))

January 11: Traveled To Long Island For Fundraiser Held By Ed Cox. “Suffolk County Republican Chairman John LaValle [hosted] a political fundraiser on Long Island for Astorino on Jan. 11, according to an invitation sent out by the state GOP earlier this afternoon. Tickets for the wine tasting start[ed] at \$250, while \$1,000 will get you the title of ‘gold sponsor.’ The fundraiser will take place at Lieb Cellars in Cutchogue, Suffolk County.” Ed Cox was also a host. (Politics on the Hudson, [1/3/14](#))

January 14: Hosted Fundraiser In Oswego County. “Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino’s latest swing through upstate New York took him ... to Oswego County for ‘meet and greets.’” (The Journal News, [1/14/14](#))

January 15: Met With Republican Leaders In Binghamton, Held Fundraiser In Syracuse. “Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino’s latest swing through upstate New York took him to the Southern Tier today, where he met with Republican leaders in Binghamton and is slated to swing west later in the evening ... Syracuse tomorrow, where he’ll meet with party officials, potential campaign donors, spokeswoman Jessica Proud said.” (The Journal News, [1/14/14](#))

January 16: Held Fundraiser In Tarrytown. “Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino held a fundraiser in Tarrytown Thursday night as he considers a run for governor ... A spokesperson for Astorino says they raised about \$200,000 Thursday night. He currently has \$680,000 in his campaign coffers, compared to Cuomo's \$33 million.” (News 12 Westchester, [1/16/14](#))

January 16: Held An “Inaugural Winter Gala.” “The big party is being saved for Jan. 16 when Astorino's campaign committee will hold a \$500 to \$5,000 per person Inaugural Winter Gala for his big money supporters.” (The Journal News, 1/1/14)

January 21: Attended State GOP’s “Rising Stars” Fundraiser In Albany. “As he peered out at a crowd of Republican backers and county chairs, Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino took to the microphone and asked for a moment to ‘speak from the bottom of my heart.’ ‘In all of my life,’ he said, ‘I have never seen a finer group of extremists in one room.’ And so went Astorino's speech Tuesday at the state Republican Party's ‘Rising Stars’ fundraiser, where the potential gubernatorial hopeful gave 10 minutes of candidate-like remarks to the crowd of GOP officials, lawmakers and donors gathered at Albany's swanky Fort Orange Club.” (Democrat & Chronicle, [1/21/14](#))

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January 22: Traveled To Albany During The 41st Anniversary Of Roe V. Wade.

“Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, who is considering a run for governor this year, believes abortion is a ‘straw man’ that's being used by Gov. Cuomo to build political support for his re-election. Astorino, a Republican who opposes abortion, said the governor should be focusing his attention on other more pressing issues facing the state, including taxes and ethics reform instead of abortion. ‘Abortion in this state is utilized by the Andrew Cuomos of the world to try to ratchet support on his side,’ Astorino told reporters at the Capitol Wednesday.” (New York Daily News, [1/22/14](#))

January 26: Attended The First Day Of The Conservative Party’s Political

Conference In The Albany Region. Reporter Jacob Kornbluh tweeted, “Spotted Rob Astorino hanging out at #cppac14 hours after Carl Paladino promised to challenge him from the right if Trump doesn't run.” (@JacobKornbluh, [1/26/14](#))

January 27: Spoke At The Conservative Party’s Annual Political Conference In The

Albany Region. “Astorino was in suburban Albany to speak at the Conservative Party's annual political conference, where he criticized Gov. Andrew Cuomo's economic record while promoting his own recent re-election in heavily Democratic Westchester County. The Republican has been publicly weighing a challenge to Cuomo.” (Democrat & Chronicle, [1/27/14](#))

February 9: Astorino To Headline The Bronx Republican Fundraising Brunch.

“A pair of potential statewide office candidates are slated to headline a Republican fundraising brunch in the Bronx, with former U.S. Attorney Michael Garcia slated to deliver the keynote address and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino scheduled to introduce him. The Bronx Republican Party’s Lincoln Brunch will take place Feb. 9. Both Astorino and Garcia have been making the rounds at GOP events in recent weeks and months, with ... Astorino traveling to Erie County last month to meet with party leaders in western New York.” (The Journal News, [1/2/14](#))

February 9: Astorino To Headline The Orange County Republican Committee’s

Sweetheart’s Brunch. “The OCRC is continuing an annual tradition started by now retired County Clerk Donna Benson, the Annual Valentine's Brunch. The Officers are proud to announce we have secured a special guest. Joining us at the brunch will be Westchester County Executive and strong contender to be our GOP nominee for Governor, the Hon. Robert Astorino.” (Facebook, accessed [1/28/14](#))

February 10: Astorino To Attend The Monthly Conservative “New York

Meeting” At The Grand Hyatt In Manhattan. @NYMeeting tweeted: “SeeU @ Feb10 @nymeeetingw/@RepTrentFranks, Steve Emerson, @BreitbartNews' @StephenBannon, @CGasparino @JillianKayM @Avik Roy & @RobAstorino.” The New York Meeting wrote on its website, “The New York Meeting is a nationally-recognized gathering of elected officials, journalists, business leaders and conservative authors in New York City at The Grand Hyatt, run by Mallory Factor and O’Brien Murray.” (@NYMeeting, [1/28/14](#); New York Meeting, accessed [1/28/14](#))

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In addition to these previous trips, Astorino is scheduled to travel to Poughkeepsie on February 20 for a Poughkeepsie Republican Committee fundraiser:

February 20: Astorino To Attend The Poughkeepsie Republican Committee's Annual Lincoln Day Dinner At The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. "On Feb. 20, Astorino will be headlining the Poughkeepsie Republican committee's Lincoln Day dinner. Astorino is billed as the special guest speaker for the event, with tickets running as high as \$400." (NY State of Politics, [2/6/14](#))



Westchester County Clerk Tim Itoni (D, WF New Rochelle); Westchester County Legislators Ken Jenkins (D, I, WF Yonkers); Peter Harckham (D, I, WF North Salem)
(Photo: Aviva Meyer)