



Supervisor race is not the only Green Referendum

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The 2021 elections are coming up soon. The Supervisor race in the Town of Amherst is effectively a referendum on green space in the town. The de-facto public opinion poll leading up to the election are all of the Keep Westwood Green signs around the site that is slated to be the Amherst Central Park versus all of the comments in the Bee Heard from those who would like to see the town walk away from years of planning and negotiations and stop the Westwood purchase. Neither of these will count as votes on November 2nd, so make sure you come out for this important election.

There will also be another green referendum on the ballot. This is New York Proposal 2, the Environmental Rights Amendment. It will add the following line to the New York State Constitution. "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment." This will ensure that environmental protections are as protected as political and civil liberties are in the state. With stories of lead pipe contamination in cities like Buffalo, groundwater contamination by manufacturing legacy chemicals and new toxins like the forever chemical PFAS (perfluororalkyl), this constitutional amendment will be a mighty tool to allow affected communities to address the effects of pollution.

A Siena Poll in June found that 80% of New Yorkers support this amendment. Not surprising in a state that has large tracts of green space like the Adirondack Park (the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States). Referendum votes are usually on the back of the ballot, so remember to turn the ballot over and vote Yes for New York Proposal 2, the Environmental Rights Amendment.

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