

YOUNG ELECTED OFFICIALS TALK PUBLIC SERVICE AT PATTERN'S ACROSS THE AISLE

In front of an engaged crowd at Marist College on July 10, six young elected officials in their 20s and 30s discussed the challenges of seeking election at a young age, talked about economic development efforts in their communities, and named their political idols. The three Republican panelists were Dutchess County Legislator Will Truitt, 23, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, Ken Ronk, 32, and Goshen Mayor Kyle Roddey, 32. The three Democrats were Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, 36, Poughkeepsie City Councilwoman Sarah Salem, 34, and Orange County Legislator Kevindaryán Luján, 31. The panel discussion of Millennials was moderated by another Millennial, Pattern's Senior Research Planner Elijah Reichlin-Melnick, 34, who also serves as an elected Village Trustee in Nyack. Audience members also had the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists.



From left: Will Truitt, Ken Ronk, Sarah Salem, Elijah Reichlin-Melnick, Kevindaryán Luján, Kyle Roddey, Steve Noble

Several of the panelists noted that while voters were generally accepting of their youth, some of their colleagues in government had initially been skeptical of their abilities, based on their age. All said they would encourage other Hudson Valley residents in their 20s and 30s to get involved in their communities and run for office if they had a plan to make their community better and a willingness to follow through and deliver results.

PATTERN HELPS ROCKLAND COUNTY FIND TAX SAVINGS THROUGH SHARED SERVICES

Salt storage, data and equipment sharing, cooperative purchasing and sewer district consolidations – these are just a few of the projects afoot in Rockland County where Pattern is helping the local governments discover new ways of saving money through shared services.

In 2017, New York passed a law requiring county executives to convene all supervisors and mayors as a “shared services panel.” School districts, which spend the bulk of local tax dollars, were optional participants, and the law was recently revised to include fire districts and special improvement districts. The mandate continues through 2021 and offers an incentive: NYS promises to “match” any savings achieved through intermunicipal shared services with grants to participating municipalities.

In Rockland, Pattern has been working with the administration of County Executive Ed Day to convene highway superintendents, animal control officers, police chiefs, IT staff, court clerks, finance officials and others to facilitate groundbreaking dialogues across the borders of local government.



In addition to the sewer district consolidation project, there has been a great deal of interest in cooperative purchasing. Highway and police departments are comparing their equipment and vehicle inventories looking for opportunities to get better prices by aggregating their purchasing. Villages are exploring joint bidding of recycling and trash carting contracts. All agree they can benefit from joining purchasing cooperatives such as the Empire State Purchasing Group, a cloud-based procurement platform that makes it easy to distribute and track bids and communicate with vendors to get the best value for the taxpayer. Pattern's work is being led by Senior Vice President for Research and Analysis Andy Stewart, who led the Rockland County Town of Orangetown as Town Supervisor before joining Pattern.

Join Pattern's 2018-19 Fellows Class—Applications Being Accepted Now!

For more than fifty years, Pattern for Progress has taken pride in our ability to gather together many of the best minds in the Hudson Valley to collaborate on complex issues affecting the quality of life for the region. To that end, in 2007, Pattern created a new initiative for regional leadership development: the Pattern Fellows program, an innovative leadership curriculum designed to expand the horizons of those already active in their communities and disciplines. More than 250 Fellows have graduated from the program since 2007.

For this year's class, we are looking for some of the best and brightest community leaders in the Hudson Valley. In the past, cadres of adept, determined, and diverse innovators have taken part in this prestigious program – bringing together corporate managers, academic leaders, nonprofit executives and municipal officials to work collectively on regional and sustainable solutions for some of the biggest challenges in the Hudson Valley. The application deadline for the 2018-19 class is October 1, 2018.

Details about the program and how to apply can be found on Pattern's website at: <http://www.pattern-for-progress.org/become-a-pattern-fellows/pattern-fellows/>

HUDSON VALLEY PATTERN for PROGRESS

Regional Fellows Program

Leaders of the future

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress' Fellows Program is a dynamic initiative designed to identify Hudson Valley leaders and enhance their ability to address issues from a multi-county perspective. Now entering its 11th year, the program has graduated over 240 innovators that include corporate managers, academic leaders, nonprofit executives and municipal officials who now have their own Fellows alumni network.