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Douglas A. Kellner
Co-Chair

December 11, 2019

By e-mail

Hon. Sarah Hoe Sterling
Democratic Leader
Columbia County Board of Supervisors
520 Warren Street
Hudson, New York 12534

Reappointment of Virginia Martin

Dear Ms. Sterling:

I write to urge you and your fellow supervisors to approve the recommendation of the Columbia County Democratic Committee to re-appoint Virginia Martin as the Democratic Election Commissioner for Columbia County. Dr. Martin is one of the outstanding election commissioners in New York State. She has a thorough understanding of the complex web of election procedures and has devoted exceptional time and effort to the task of administering elections. Her performance has made the Columbia County Board of Elections an impressive example that I often cite as a model for other election administrators in New York State.

Columbia County did a good job of introducing early voting this year despite the very tight timetable and hiccups experienced throughout the state. Nevertheless, Columbia County had the highest rate of early voting participation of all 62 counties in New York.

Dr. Martin has also received national recognition for her efforts to promote transparency and verifiability in the process of administering elections. She has brought credit to Columbia County for its innovations and has frequently volunteered her time to serve on panels to educate both the public and other election officials on efficient methods of election administration.

All election officials in New York State will face new challenges in the 2020 presidential election year as they administer the new systems and procedures for what promises to be a historic high turnout. It is easy to underestimate the complexities of administering elections, especially in the presidential year with three elections and a much higher turnout. New election

commissioners often suffer from a long learning curve to master all of the procedures.

I have confidence that Virginia Martin can continue to make election administration a source of pride for Columbia County.

I urge you to re-appoint Virginia Martin as the Democratic Election Commissioner for Columbia County.

Very truly yours,

Douglas A. Kellner
Co-Chair

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