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Rockland proposition draws skeptics

Some residents question bundling of 13 changes

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Rockland/Westchester Journal News
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Rockland voters are being asked to flip the ballot Nov. 3 to see Proposition 1, a local law that would amend the county charter in various ways.

The Democratically-controlled Rockland Legislature passed the measure unanimously. The Republican County Executive's team, including the county attorney who worked on the measure, also encourage a "yes" vote.

But some community members have been asking pointed questions about the 214-word measure that lists 13 categories of changes that they are asked to approve. The more frequently heard: Why all these changes, all at once, bundled with no opportunity for voters to pick what they want to support and what they don't?

Rockland Legislature Chair Jay Hood has said more than a dozen changes were bundled together as a cost-saver — "propositions cost money," the Democrat said — and since the Charter's last update was in 2014, there's plenty of stuff to tweak.

Robert Tompkins, a retired CPA, and Hood discussed the proposal at an Oct. 21 forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Rockland. Among the criticisms raised: The proposal is complicated and not well-explained, with lingering questions about whether it will weaken financial oversight and transparency.

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Gov. Kathy Hochul has a 14-point lead over Republican challenger Bruce Blakeman, according to the latest Siena poll. ANNA CONNORS/POOL VIA REUTERS

Blakeman calls polls showing deficit 'voter suppression'

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman is calling the findings of two recent polls "voter suppression tactics" as one shows him leading among likely independent voters in New York, while the other has him trailing Gov. Kathy Hochul. • The latest Siena poll conducted between Oct. 19-22 of more than 800 likely New York voters reveals Hochul has a 14-point lead over Blakeman with less than a week until Election Day, up from a 9-point lead in September. For the first time in her five years as governor, a majority of voters view Hochul favorably and 68-23% believe Hochul will win, including 40% of Republicans, the poll also outlines.



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Hudson Valley Restaurant Week returns with prix fixe deals

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Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, the biannual dining event that crisscrosses eight counties, returns for its fall run Nov. 2-16.

As in previous years, the prix fixe price runs in tiers with lunch set at $24.95, $29.95 or $39.95; dinner at $29.95, $39.95 or $44.95 and brunch at $24.95 or $29.95. Beverage, tax, and tip are not included.

Each menu includes one appetizer, one entrée and one dessert, with each restaurant's website listing which meal periods are offered and which days the restaurant is participating.

Diners will find approximately 50 dining establishments across Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange and Ulster counties.

Some of the participating spots in Rockland include Pizzetiéllo in Pearl River, Hudson's Mill in Garnerville and Freelance Cafe & Wine Bar in Piermont. In Westchester, the options are more extensive. Among the newcomers to the mix are North River Oyster Bar in Sleepy Hollow and Butter + Brie in Pleasantville.

Other recent additions include Ora Steakhouse in Scarsdale, Whisk Restaurant in the Sonesta Hotel in White Plains and The Kittle House Inn in Chappaqua, the latter of which reopened under new ownership in November 2025.

For more restaurant details, go to hvmag.com/restaurants.



Salmon tartare at Butter + Brie, a French-American restaurant in Pleasantville.
TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

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