



Election Results, 2003

2003 Election Returns: Results and Highlights

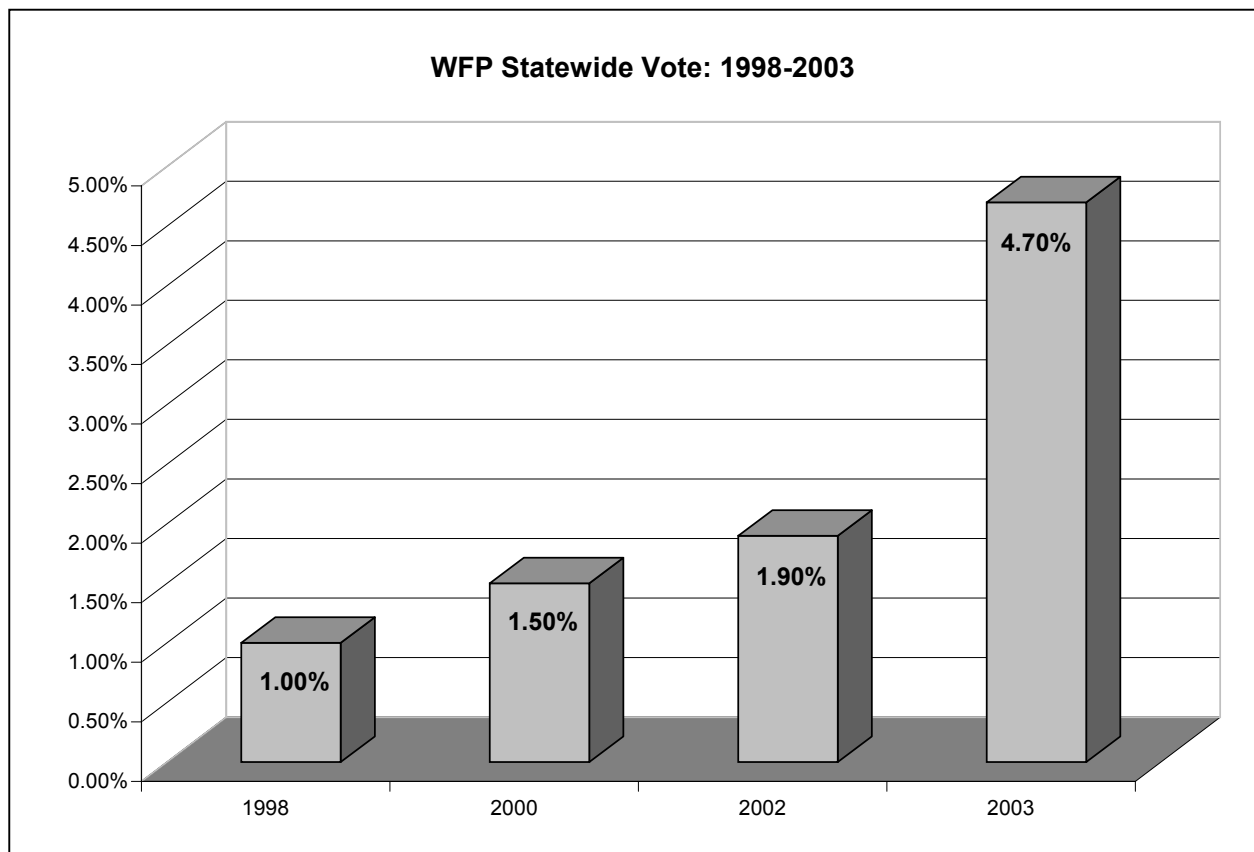
“There is a muscular new kid on the block of New York politics, following last week’s elections – the Working Families Party.”

– Jack Newfield in the *New York Sun*

The 2003 election season saw WFP candidates make exciting gains across the state. From Manhattan to Monroe, from Erie to Schenectady, voters pulled Row E for **good schools, fair wages, and affordable housing** in record numbers.

In 2003, the WFP endorsed more **530** candidates. With returns being gathered (and Albany elections delayed for legal reasons), WFP-backed contenders won **327 of 532** races for which we have results – nearly two in three. Statewide, the party accounted for the margin of victory in an impressive **24** races. And the party notched a historic achievement by electing **Letitia James** to the 35th Council District in New York City, our first victory for a candidate running solely on our line and the first victory for a third party in a New York City Council race in a generation.

Statewide, we are estimating that **112,000 votes were cast on Row E**. This would translate to a WFP party line vote of **4.7 percent, more than double last year's mark**. In our most active counties, the WFP ran at **5.5 percent**.

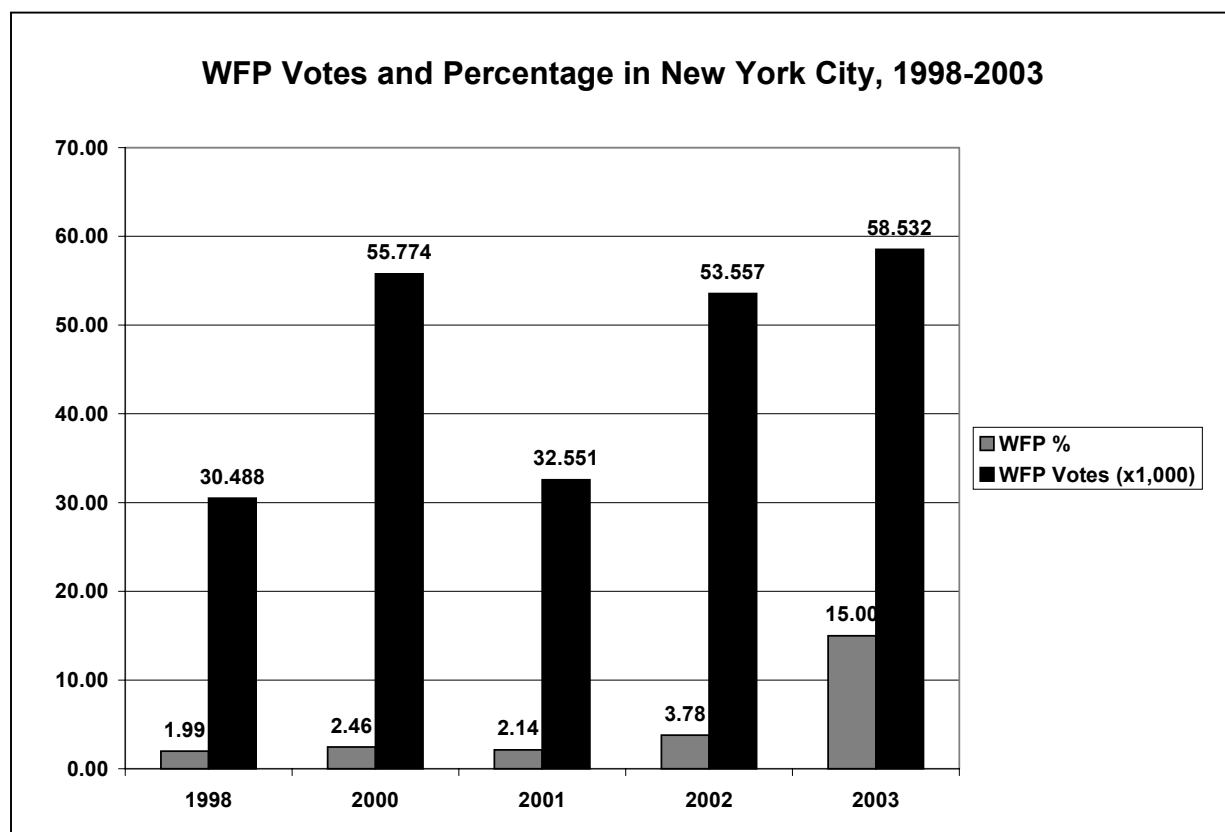


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In off-year elections, every vote cast has a much greater impact. In an election year with no statewide or nationwide race to draw people to the polls, the WFP's highly motivated voters accounted for a disproportionate share of the total. This is one major factor in WFP running at higher percentages than ever before in almost every corner of the state. Also at work is the decomposition of other minor-party ballot lines.

Accurately measuring the WFP's strength in a year with no statewide races presents difficulties. We used County Executive or other countywide races where possible; where we had not endorsed any countywide candidates, we totaled votes and percentages of non-overlapping city and town races. Not a perfect procedure but, we think, a reasonable one.

New York City



The gray columns show the WFP percentage of the total vote, the black columns show the number of votes cast on the WFP line. 1998 and 2002 are gubernatorial races, 2000 is the Senate race, 2001 is the mayoral race and 2003 is City Council races for Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx and the judicial race for Brooklyn and Staten Island. The 2003 percentages reflect only those areas where there was a candidate on the WFP line.

Letitia James/35th Council District:

Letitia “Tish” James made history as the first City Councilmember elected on a third party line since 1977, and the first WFP standalone candidate to win anywhere in the state. Indeed, it was a landslide, with Tish earning **14,166 votes, 77% of the total**. More than 400 volunteers fanned out across the 35th district on Election Day to bring home the victory for Tish.

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Nonpartisan Elections Proposal

The WFP, the labor movement, the Democratic Party and all the city's good-government groups got out the message that Mayor Mike Bloomberg's nonpartisan elections proposal was bad politics wrapped in a bad process. The opponents resoundingly defeated the effort to abolish party primaries - the vote was **70 to 30** percent - even though the Mayor spent millions pushing it and had the support of Rudy Giuliani and George Pataki.

Brooklyn and Staten Island Supreme Court

The WFP's "E for Ethics and Excellence" judicial slate for State Supreme Court in Brooklyn and Staten Island didn't win, but we certainly sent a message. Our **35,000** votes included **30 percent** of the total Brooklyn vote; compare that to last November, where we got 4 percent on our line for McCall in Brooklyn. Clearly, many people are looking for an alternative to the closed, corrupt judicial selection process of the Brooklyn Democratic Party. And just as clearly, people increasingly believe the WFP can offer that alternative.

New York City Council

The high-profile races just mentioned got the lions' share of press attention and party resources in New York City. Apart from these races, however, the WFP also endorsed 32 incumbents and newcomer Annabel Palma for City Council, all of whom won their races. In many districts, historically high numbers of voters chose to vote on Row E.

Top Ten City Council Districts for the WFP

Borough	District	Councilmember	2003 Votes	2003 Percent	2001 Votes	2001 Percent
Brooklyn	35	James	14,166	76.70%	9,762	34.50%
Brooklyn	33	Yassky	3,759	31.24	1,087	3.36
Brooklyn	39	DeBlasio	2,698	20.55		
Queens	29	Katz	1,044	12.61	464	1.40
Manhattan	8	Reed	1,401	12.52	898	3.09
Manhattan	9	Perkins	2,033	12.22	889	2.44
Manhattan	7	Jackson	1,614	12.11	983	3.08
Manhattan	1	Gerson	1,515	12.03	3,216	
Bronx	18	Palma	1,007	10.71		
Bronx	17	Serrano	807	10.66		

In Brooklyn, 31 percent of the vote in David Yassky's 33rd District (3,759 votes) and 20 percent of the vote in Bill di Blasio's 39th District (2,698 votes) came in on the WFP line in Brooklyn. In Queens, WFP garnered 12 percent in Melinda Katz's district (29th), and the WFP also exceeded 12 percent in the Manhattan districts of Alan Gerson (1st), Robert Jackson (7th), Bill Perkins (8th) and Phillip Reed (9th). While the Bronx has historically been slower to vote for the WFP, we tallied over 8 percent of the vote in all six races where we endorsed candidates there, with over 10 percent of voters pulling Row E in the Annabel Palma and Jose Serrano races.

Averaging our performance in various City Council districts around the City and using our highest vote totals from the Supreme Court race for Brooklyn and Staten Island, 2003 saw the

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WFP **earn a higher percentage of NYC votes than ever before.** Our performance improved substantially in all of the city’s five boroughs. Note that in the chart below, as in the ones that follow, the “Race Cited” column indicates the race being used as the benchmark for 2003. The percentages for earlier years reflect statewide races for 1998, 2000 and 2002 and the mayoral race for 2001.

Borough-level WFP Results, 1998-2003

Borough	2003 Race Cited	2003 votes	2003 percent	2002 percent	2001 percent	2000 percent	1998 percent
Bronx	City Council (total)	4,542	9.38%	2.31%	2.69%	1.76%	1.07%
Brooklyn	Supreme Court (Lopez Torres)	32,594	30.68	4.95	2.63	3.35	2.37
Staten Island	Supreme Court (Palladino)	3,940	11.63	1.2	2.31	1.24	0.77
Manhattan	City Council (total)	10,938	9.82	5.33	1.44	3.07	3.39
Queens	City Council (total)	6,518	7.27	2.33	1.17	1.54	0.97

2003 percent is for those districts where we ran candidates.

Central New York

The WFP endorsed 73 candidates in Central New York, and with returns still being counted, 34 of those candidates went on to win. The WFP also **provided the margin of victory for Patricia Waelder** in her race for Syracuse Common Council, tallying 3.2 percent of the vote.

County	Won	Lost	Margin	2003 Race Cited	2003	2002	2000	1998
Cayuga		1		District Attorney	2.37%	0.73%	1.20%	0.42%
Oneida	16	10		County Executive	2.2	0.80	0.84	0.35
Onondaga	14	5	1	County Comptroller	3.2	1.38	1.64	0.61
Oswego	4	9		County Legislature	5.0	0.74	0.92	0.30
Tompkins	4			Ithaca Mayoral	10.0	4.36	3.86	2.75

In our highest profile race in the region, **Tom Seals**, a retired police officer the WFP recruited to challenge an incumbent Syracuse Common Councilor who had reneged on his pledge to support a Living Wage law, won the city's most lopsided victory. Seals got **2,200 votes, 200 on Row E**, and his GOP opponent got 600. In Seals’ district turnout was up more than 70 percent, reflecting the WFP’s success at mobilizing and energizing voters.

Teamster **Mike Giarusso**, a Chapter Steering Committee, ran for Salina Town board on the WF line and was cross-endorsed by the Democrats. Giarusso won, with **6 percent of the total vote on Row E** - and was one of only six non-Republicans who won out of more than 100 races in Onondaga County outside Syracuse.

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In Ithaca, **Carolyn Peterson** won the Democratic party primary with help from the WFP and went on to win 61 percent of the vote, with 17 percent of her total on the WFP line. She was identified throughout the campaign as the "Democratic and Working Families" candidate.

Capital District

WFP endorsed 87 candidates in the capital district, with 48 of these candidates going on to win their races.

County	Won	Lost	Margin	2003 Race Cited	2003	2002	2000	1998
Albany	3	2		County Executive	3.0%	2.27%	1.76%	0.64%
Columbia	9	3		Various town races	3.0	1.19	1.05	0.53
Montgomery	3	2		Various town races	3.0	0.54	0.56	0.28
Rensselaer	7	7	2	Sheriff	3.1	1.32	0.98	0.44
Saratoga	9	6		Various town races	2.0	0.82	0.71	0.23
Schenectady	17	3	1	County Legislature	3.0	1.13	0.79	0.33

During the general election, WFP focused on the hotly contested **Schenectady mayoral race**. The election came down to the wire, but in the end our hard work was rewarded as Brian Stratton won --6,857 to 6,659 – with the **WFP's 510 votes providing the margin of victory**.

In Albany, our highest vote total came in the countywide Comptroller's race, where we got 2,133 votes for Allen Maikels in a losing effort. That total represented 4.2 percent of the total vote. The County Legislature elections were postponed because of a court dispute over redistricting, and have not yet been rescheduled..

In Rensselaer, Jack Rogers received 1,278 votes for Sheriff on Row E, good for 3.1 percent of the total vote. We also provided the margin of victory for Richard Fennelly, a North Greenbush Council candidate, and Richard Reilly, an East Greenbush Council candidate.

Fingerlakes District

Eighteen candidates ran for office with a WFP endorsement in Monroe and Ontario County, with six emerging victorious.

County	Won	Lost	Margin	2003 Race Cited	2003	2002	2000	1998
Monroe	5	12		County Executive	1.5%	1.05%	0.58%	0.34%
Ontario	1					0.48	0.46	0.20

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The WFP got over **5,700 votes for Julie Anne Gordon** in the countywide family court judge race in Monroe County. That's more than double the 2,500 votes on our line in Carl McCall's gubernatorial race. Sue Swanton, running as a WFP-line only candidate for Town of Gates Supervisor, polled an impressive 25 percent of the total town vote.

In Ontario County, WFP's only endorsed candidate, Jaqueline Augustine, won her race for Geneva Council.

Long Island

In Nassau, the WFP endorsed 49 candidates, and 31 of these candidates won their races.

County	Won	Lost	Margin	2003 Race Cited	2003	2002	2000	1998
Nassau	31	18	2	County Tax Assessors	2%	1.13%	0.88%	0.67%
Suffolk	N/A	N/A	N/A	Supreme Court	3.09%	0.79%	0.72%	0.51%

N/A = Not applicable; see below.

The WFP provided the **margin of victory for two Nassau County candidates**: Harvey B. Levinson, in his race for Chair of Board of Tax Assessors for the County, and James J. Stefanich, for Oyster Bay Receiver of Taxes. The Board of Tax Assessors race was a countywide race, and in it, Levinson received 4,221 votes on the WFP line to secure victory.

Levinson's race gave us our highest vote total for Nassau County this election season; these votes represent 2 percent of the electorate pulling the lever on Row E and is nearly double our previous best in this fairly conservative county.

Another positive development came in the County Legislature, where the Democrats were able to keep control. WFP-endorsed candidates won nine races for that body. However, we did not achieve victory in our highest priority Nassau campaign as Larry DeAngelis, a member of the WFP and the CWA, lost his race for Nassau County Legislator, despite campaigning hard. DeAngelis ran on both the Democrat and the WFP lines, but he was truly a WFP candidate, and his loss means that our hopes for a real champion of the working class on that legislature have not yet been realized.

At the town-level, our strongest bases of support in Nassau remain in North Hempstead, where WFP candidates won eight races, and Oyster Bay, where we won five.

In Suffolk a small but politically connected group has managed to hijack the WFP endorsement process, so there was no genuine WFP slate to report on. The candidate we would have endorsed, reformer Steve Levy, won the race for County Executive in Suffolk County, ending Republican misrule in Suffolk. The WFP had told voters to vote for Levy on the Democratic line and avoid Row E just this once, because some impostors had stolen our good name and secretly endorsed Republican Ed Romaine. We're glad they took our advice.

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The impostors' power play makes it difficult to ascertain the strength of the WFP name and reputation on Long Island, but Susan Kluewer, a Supreme Court Justice candidate endorsed by the Democrats and the WFP in Suffolk, got 6,704 votes on the WFP line, 3.09% of the total vote.

Westchester and Rockland County

Westchester and Rockland Counties saw the WFP win 54 races, providing the margin of victory in an impressive eight of these.

County	Won	Lost	Margin	2003 Race Cited	2003	2002	2000	1998
Westchester	36	21	6	County Judge	2.8%	1.31%	0.88%	0.70%
Rockland	18	18	2	District Attorney	2.7	1.52	1.33	0.59

This overall success is bittersweet, as in our highest-priority race in the region, Joe Farmer and Chuck Lesnick didn't manage to unseat the Republicans in Yonkers. They did tally **1,100 votes on Row E, 3 percent of the city**, and they also energized hundreds of voters who had opted out of the political process in recent years to get involved and to vote. WFP organizers and canvassers were the heart of the campaign.

Elsewhere in Westchester, the party provided the margin of victory and got its highest vote totals for Rory Bellantoni and Robert DiBella in their County Court races, and provided key support in winning city council races in Greenburgh, White Plains, Peekskill, and New Rochelle. Also in New Rochelle, **Linda Levine** ran a Row E-only campaign for Mayor and won more than 14 percent of the vote.

In Rockland County, the **WFP's 3.81 percent was the margin of victory** for Denise Kronstadt. She defeated a right-wing Republican in her race for an open seat in the County Legislature, where Democrats won a veto-proof majority, at least on paper. The WFP also provided **the margin of victory** for Judge Joel Flick in Clarkstown with **767 votes**.

Mid-Hudson District

WFP endorsed 72 candidates in the Mid-Hudson District, winning 44 of these races.

County	Won	Lost	Margin	2003 Race Cited	2003	2002	2000	1998
Dutchess	7	16	2	County Clerk	2.6%	0.89%	0.80%	0.52%
Orange	1	1		Supreme Court Judge	2.8	0.55	0.47	0.35
Putnam	2	1		Supreme Court Judge	3.5	0.72	0.78	0.63
Sullivan	10	6	1	County Legislature	2.5	0.68	0.65	0.43
Ulster	24	4	1	various town races	2.5	1.62	1.54	0.76

Dutchess County handed losses to many of our candidates, but we provided the winning margin for Lee Kyriacou in his Beacon Council race and for David Steinberg in his Hyde Park Town Justice race with between 2.5 percent and 3 percent of the vote.

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In Ulster County, our endorsed candidates won an incredible 24 out of 28 races, with the WFP line (3.85 percent) providing the margin of victory for Patrick McDonough in his race for Rosendale Council.

North Country, Southern Tier and Western New York

WFP-endorsed candidates won 63 races in 2003 in the Western region of the state, providing the margin of victory in three. The party backed over 120 candidates in the five counties listed below.

County	Won	Lost	Margin	2003 Race Cited	2003	2002	2000	1998
Broome	9	5	2	Family Court Judge	4.8%	2.05%	2.12%	0.38%
Cattaraugus	2	0		County Clerk	5.7	0.54	0.61	0.41
Chautauqua	19	4	1	County Legislature	4.0	0.63	0.70	0.37
Erie	23	20	2	County Executive	3.8	1.70	1.89	1.42
Niagara	19	23		County Legislature	3.7	1.27	1.84	1.06

WFP Co-Chair Jim Duncan lost his Row E-only race for Town Supervisor in Cheektowaga, but he made the Democratic incumbent feel some heat on issues including casino sitings and economic development. Duncan got more than **2,700 votes on Row E** in a town with approximately 100 WFP registrants, and 27 to 1 isn't a bad ratio.

Jason Elliotto lost his race for Town Supervisor in Chili, **but 420 votes - more than 10 percent of his total** - came in on Row E, more votes than the Conservative candidate in the race got.

In Erie, WFP candidates won races in five of eleven county legislature districts, while Row E provided key margin of victory votes in Tonawanda City Attorney (3.3 percent) and Town President (3.6 percent) races. Chautauqua saw nine of eleven WFP-backed County Legislature candidates win, with the WFP giving a margin of victory to Sallie Pullano in the 24th District.

In Broome County, WFP candidates won five races for Binghamton City Council, with WFP votes providing the margin of victory for Charles E. Kramer. 6.8 percent of voters pulled Row E in the race.

In Niagara County, WFP candidates generally ran at between three and four percent of the vote, but did much better in some races. Steven Gerhardt, running a WFP-only campaign for County Coroner, pulled over 16 percent of the vote, the Row E record for this part of the state.

WFP Vote Totals and Percentages: Selected Counties, 1998-2003

County	2003 Race Cited	2003 Local	2003 WFP %	2002 Governor	2002 WFP %	2001 Local	2001 WFP %	2000 Senate	2000 WFP %	1998 Governor	1998 WFP %
Bronx	City Council*	4,542	9.38	4,587	2.31	5,193	2.69	5,684	1.76	2,322	1.07
Kings	Supreme Court	32,594	30.68	20,301	4.95	11,217	2.63	21,557	3.35	10,353	2.37
New York	City Council*	10,938	9.82	19,306	5.33	9,202	2.31	17,855	3.07	13,276	3.39
Queens	City Council*	6,518	7.27	8,294	2.33	5,631	1.44	8,893	1.54	3,793	0.97
Richmond	Supreme Court	3,940	11.63	1,069	1.20	1,308	1.17	1,785	1.24	744	0.77
New York City total		58,532	15.02	53,557	3.78	32,551	2.14	55,774	2.46	30,488	1.99
Nassau	Tax Assessor	4,445	2.12	4,326	1.13	684	0.21	4,650	0.78	2,896	0.67
Rockland	District Attorney	2,222	4.38	1,317	1.52	3,722	8.78	1,565	1.26	519	0.59
Suffolk	Supreme Court	6,704	3.09	2,844	0.79	2,199	0.97	4,153	0.72	1,932	0.51
Westchester	County Court	3,775	2.78	3,380	1.31	1,989	1.17	3,227	0.85	1,940	0.70
Downstate suburbs total		16,475	2.66	11,867	1.09	8,594	1.12	13,595	0.81	7,287	0.62
Albany	County Executive	2,133	4.22	2,583	2.27	1,207	1.68	2,579	1.80	746	0.64
Dutchess	County Clerk	1,377	2.62	688	0.89	746	1.75	903	0.80	404	0.52
Orange	Supreme Court	1,300	2.77	483	0.55	n/a	n/a	552	0.47	305	0.35
Rensselaer	Sheriff	1,278	3.11	733	1.32	394	0.97	731	1.06	249	0.44
Saratoga	Various local*	688	3.38	589	0.82	686	2.54	625	0.71	163	0.21
Schenectady	County Legislature*	1,517	3.48	584	1.13	n/a	n/a	550	0.81	185	0.33
Capital District/Mid-Hudson total		8,293	3.25	5,660	1.89	2,347	1.51	5,940	1.50	2,052	0.67
Broome	Family Court	1,522	4.80	1,363	2.05	904	2.50	1,810	2.06	270	0.38
Monroe	Family Court	5,758	2.91	2,485	1.05	774	1.82	1,818	0.56	822	0.34
Oneida	County Executive	1,313	2.21	576	0.80	1,093	3.93	817	0.84	278	0.35
Onondaga	Comptroller	2,548	3.20	2,046	1.38	235	0.71	3,232	1.57	939	0.61
Tompkins	Ithaca Mayor*	403	9.99	1,229	4.36	367	10.60	1,387	3.86	794	2.75
Central/Fingerlakes/So. Tier total		11,544	3.10	7,699	1.40	3,006	2.15	9,064	1.21	3,103	0.54
Erie	County Executive	9,402	3.88	5,145	1.70	3,624	2.20	7,849	1.82	4,586	1.42
Niagara	County Legislature*	1,475	3.73	853	1.27	n/a	n/a	1,610	1.84	743	1.06
Western New York Total		10,877	3.86	5,998	1.62	3,624	2.20	9,459	1.82	5,329	1.36
Selected counties total		106,392	5.51	84,781	2.28	50,122	1.83	93,832	1.67	48,259	1.21
State total**		112,000	4.70	90,533	1.93	53,000	1.55	99,436	1.52	51,325	1.03

n/a = not available

* 2001 and 2003 results reflect only those districts where there were candidates on the WFP line

** 2001 and 2003 state totals estimated