

Chautauqua County Clerk

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Larry L. Barmore

Endorsements: Republican and Conservative

Age: 62

Family: Wife Carol, 3 grown children, 7 grandchildren

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):
Owner of Gay Mark & Tire & Wheel in Cassadaga. Selling to longtime employee at years end.

Education: Graduate of CVCS

Civic Involvement: Member of Gerry Free Methodist Church, Valley Historical Society, Fenton Historical Society, Barker Historical Society

Elected Offices Held: County Legislature, now in 3rd term

Please give a short biography of yourself:

I was born in Chautauqua County and have lived here all my life. I attended Fluvanna Elementary School, then Falconer High and graduated from Cassadaga Valley. After school I went to work for Neisner Department Stores in the management training program. I was the Merchandise Manager at the Allegany store when an opportunity came up for me to join my father in the tire business. I have worked at this for the last 40 years. I love music and play both guitar and drums and sing. I played drums in a band for 25 years, retiring in 1992. I love local history and have memberships in 3 county historical societies. I love doing genealogies for myself and others. Each year I chair the Sinclairville History Fair, now in its 15th year held the 2nd Saturday of September. I like keeping busy and am involved in many endeavors simultaneously.

What qualities to you possess that qualify you to be the county clerk?

I like to work, I like to learn new things and I love to help people. As a legislator I have helped people all over the county with various issues, most of which were not under the jurisdiction of the legislature and many of the people were not in my district. They turned to me because they didn't know what to do and I helped them rather than pawn them off because it "wasn't my job". Many people have come to call me when they have an issue or need something done because people know that I will help and not turn them away. I have attended more than 300 local board meetings during my tenure as a legislator so that I was always aware of every local government issue within my district.

What would you like to accomplish during your term if elected?

I would like the DMV offices and County Clerk's office to bring in more revenue, enhance services and improve customer service. By streamlining walk-in services and allowing the option for appointments in the DMV, additional revenue could be generated by increasing the number of customers and car dealers using the local DMV offices, without over-burdening the staff. Additional services such as Passport processing and the sale of EZPasses also generates additional revenue. I would like to enhance those types of services and improve the County Clerk's website and Facebook page to provide additional information and resources for the public.

What do you believe is the most important attribute of a county clerk: working with other county officials, the ability to oversee a large staff or something else?

The Constitutional position of the County Clerk is the Clerk of the Supreme and County courts. In addition the clerk is also the recorder of all land records, the records management officer for county government records, oversees the County Historian, the Department of Weights and Measures and three DMV offices. The ability to manage each diverse office, working with the staff as well as all of the other county government departments who use those services while providing great customer services and proper care for the vital records entrusted to the office is essential to every single resident in Chautauqua County. I believe management, customer service and leadership experience is essential to keeping the office running smoothly while enhancing and improving on what's already there.

Are there changes the clerk's office requires that can be implemented locally?

There are always some changes that can be made. It's important though to understand the history, function and laws already in place before making costly changes that affect the vital records the County Clerk's office handles daily. While ideas are a great start, you can't learn to manage staff, daily workflow, customer service issues and budgets from a text book. Before any changes are made, you have to first understand how things are being done, why, and, through experience, decide where improvements can and should be made. Costly mistakes can happen if changes are simply made before getting a handle on the whole picture. Many processes in the Clerk and DMV offices are regulated by state laws and mandates. Making changes without having a grasp on what those laws and mandates are and the rationale behind the process in place can not only compromise the integrity of the approximately 50,000 documents processed every year, it can also add up to wasting money we simply can't afford.

Are there changes in New York law that you would push for as the elected county clerk?

One of the biggest issues that affect every person is credit scores and credit rating and disputing information or trying to research information on a credit report can be a nightmare. Credit reporting agencies hire people to obtain judgment information from the clerk's office. The law does not require credit reporting agencies to also acquire satisfactions of judgment or judgments that have been vacated so many people wrongly believe if the satisfaction or vacated judgment is filed, it is also on record with the credit reporting agencies. I would work with our elected officials to try to pass a law requiring credit reporting agencies to search for and report satisfactions and vacated judgments as well as require a standardized system to make it easier for people to research and dispute incorrect information. I would also work with our elected leaders to see changes made to the snowmobile and watercraft registration process to make it easier for local residents as well as visitors to register their snowmobiles, boats and trailers locally which will enhance our customer service and bring in additional revenue to our county. In Chautauqua County, pistol permits are handled by the Sheriff's department. However, statewide, most are the responsibility of the County Clerks. I would work with the State County Clerk's Association and local leaders to repeal the SAFE Act and find a better way to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill and criminals, not responsible gun owners.

What do you see as the top two issues facing the county clerk's office during the next four years and how would you handle those issues?

Declining revenue in the DMV and mandated changes in the clerk's office are two issues that will need to be addressed. With the change of licenses from a five-year renewal to an eight-year renewal, the DMV will see a significant decline in driver's license renewals over the next three years. I will revive the Renew Locally campaign which I assisted in launching in 2008 that increased revenue by approximately \$150,000. Additionally, E-recording of land records and E-filing of court documents will be a requirement in the near future. County Clerk Sandy Sopak is already working on implementing an E-Recording option. That process will be gradual over the next few years and will require a seamless transition while being implemented. I will work with the staff and the state to make that process as smooth as possible for the users while we work towards the e-filing requirement that will eventually be a state mandate.

Lori Cornell

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Lori Cornell

Endorsements: Democratic, Independence and Working Families Parties

Age: 37

Family: Married to Chuck Cornell, sons: Ben, Nate, Zach, Nick

Current Employment (if retired, please describe your previous career):

Education: MS, St. Bonaventure School of Business; BA, University of Notre Dame; Dunkirk High School.

Civic Involvement: Current: CC Ring Elementary PTA, Babe Ruth Baseball, AAUW, League of Women Voters, MOPS, Chautauqua County Land Bank, YMCA Campaign for Youth. Family Service of the Chautauqua Region, Jamestown Kiwanis Club, Jamestown Housing Authority, Jamestown Property Rehabilitation. NY Women Inc, Montessori Parents, Women's Political Study

Elected Offices Held: Chautauqua County Legislator.

Please give a short biography of yourself:

I grew up in Dunkirk and currently reside on Jamestown's northside. In addition to serving nearly two terms in the Chautauqua County Legislature, I have held full time professional and management positions in municipal, county, state, and the federal government. For the past two years, I have also assisted small businesses in a marketing and sales capacity. I have served as an adjunct faculty member at Jamestown Community College and have volunteered in numerous community-based organizations. I was recently awarded the 2013 YWCA Woman of Achievement in Government.

I received my Master's Degree from the St. Bonaventure University School of Business and my Bachelor's Degree from the University of Notre Dame, where I was accepted into the Hesburgh Honors Program in Public Service. Following my undergraduate studies, I also volunteered for the one-year National Americorps Program and assisted with inner-city development efforts. I am fluent in Spanish.

Of all my diverse professional pursuits, I most enjoyed the opportunity to work on Capitol Hill as a Congressional policy analyst/advisor. However, after spending three years in Washington, DC, I opted return to Chautauqua County in 2004 to work instead on behalf of our county's residents in this wonderful community that I proudly calls "home". Like many Chautauqua County residents, I can think of no better place to live, work and raise my family.

In 2005, I ran unsuccessfully for County Clerk and then went on to win a seat on the County Legislature in 2009 and 2011. I was chosen first as the Caucus Assistant Leader, and then later, as Caucus Leader. As a County Legislator, I led the effort to form a non-partisan, independent commission to redraw county legislative districts and have been a longtime advocate for reducing the size of the Legislature. I have consistently opposed spending and tax increases and have been an outspoken proponent for streamlining local government to save taxpayers' money. Further, I have been a strong supporter of 4H and efforts to protect and enhance Chautauqua Lake. I have also been a leader in neighborhood revitalization.

My husband Chuck and I are parents to Ben, Nate, Zach, and Nick. Like many parents, I balances the challenges and rewards of four school-aged children. Our active family enjoys and proudly participates with Jamestown Midget Football, YMCA Youth Soccer and Basketball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Chautauqua Striders Track and Field, the Drama Enrichment Program, Infinity Performing Arts, Music Together, and Piano by Shannon Nixon.

What qualities to you possess that qualify you to be the county clerk?

Although I have both public and private sector experience, I have long described public service as my "real passion". My extensive background in high-level governmental positions - including work with the Jamestown Mayor to the State Legislature to the U.S. Congress - has contributed to my strong administrative, organizational, and management skills. The County Clerk is the county's official "record keeper", and thus, a strong County Clerk is a detail-oriented, well-organized County Clerk. I have also provided constituent services for more than 15 years, giving me strong sense of accountability to the people and a unique ability to well-solve public problems. My work experience is actually relevant to the job requirements of County Clerk. I am a professional leader, not a manager in an unrelated field.

I also possess a strong educational background with a Bachelor's degree in Government from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's degree from St. Bonaventure's School of Business. Furthermore, I am well-versed in county governance and the budgeting process having served as a leader in the County Legislature, although constructing the office budget is one of the less involved roles of the County Clerk, as are personnel functions like payroll which is largely performed by the County Human Resources Department.

I believe my high-energy and drive to succeed are the qualities that most set my candidacy apart. I attest my multi-tasking nature and ability to well-handle the multi-faceted organization of the County Clerk's office to my stamina as a parent and community leader. Prior to holding elective office, I gave birth to four sons in five years while working full time as District Director to retired Assemblyman Bill Parment and earning my Master's Degree all at the same time. Another quality that sets my candidacy apart, I believe, is my eye on the future. At age 37, I have a vested interest in the future of Chautauqua County and, with the support of county residents, look forward to working hard on behalf of our community for a long time to come.

What would you like to accomplish during your term if elected?

My number one goal as County Clerk will be to provide the people of Chautauqua County with exceptional service at the lowest possible cost. Whether it be at the DMV's, the recording office, or the Bureau of Weights and Measures, I will provide taxpayers with the services they deserve, but in a more cost-efficient manner. Through technology and innovation, creative management, and a problem-solving approach, I will streamline the services of the County Clerk's office and return more revenue to the County Treasury. I strongly believe our property taxes are too high and that the people of our county need and deserve public leaders that will provide them with relief. As one of the only revenue producing departments in county government, the County Clerk is in a unique position to make a critical difference. When I'm County Clerk, I will do everything possible to return the savings to the people's pockets where it belongs. I will also work hard to better encourage and accommodate residents and visitors to do business with the County Clerk's office so that taxpayers may realize additional savings. Increasing revenues and decreasing expenses all the while providing for the best possible customer service - is my firm commitment to Chautauqua County residents.

As County Clerk, I also plan to accomplish a non-partisan office. Public service shouldn't be about politics. There is no Republican or Democratic way to perform the duties of the County Clerk. I promise to be a fair and honest public servant our community can trust. I will place people and principles over partisan politics just as I have as a legislator and for many prior years.

What do you believe is the most important attribute of a county clerk: working with other county officials, the ability to oversee a large staff or something else?

I believe the most important attribute of the County Clerk is leadership. I not only hold a Master's degree in Leadership and have been well-trained in human resource management, but I have held numerous leadership positions both professionally and via community-based organizations for more than 20 years. Most recently, I served as Minority Leader of the County Legislature and my proactive record of bipartisan policy initiatives speaks for itself. I think Peter Drucker, famed management consultant for whom the Drucker Institute is named, explained it best. Drucker contends that many people are managers, but not leaders. He defines leadership as the ability to "inspire and motivate". He is often quoted as saying: "Management is doing things right. Leadership is doing the right things." As a manager, I will plan, organize and carry out the important operations of the Clerk's Office. But more importantly, as a leader, I will provide the motivation necessary to encourage and support the dedicated staff in the Clerk's Office and the DMV's. I am a team player and would value the hard work, historic knowledge and staff input for improved operations and the most productive, enjoyable workplace possible. You can't have customer satisfaction without employee satisfaction.

Are there changes the clerk's office requires that can be implemented locally?

Yes, there are many improvements that we may implement locally to well-serve the residents of Chautauqua County. I recognize and applaud the upstanding legacy created by our longtime, retiring County Clerk Sandy Sopak and would endeavor continued progress for the future. I will be an open-door, accessible County Clerk and will work directly to improve the lives of county residents. For example, I will personally reach out to veterans and pledge to visit every Veterans' organization in the county to distribute "Return the Favor" discount cards in my first year in office. I will also help our legal community effectively transition to the new electronic filing system of court records through supportive, CLE-credit bearing workshops. And I will build a more cooperative relationship with our 27 town clerks by providing for grant-seeking and record-keeping support. In more general terms, I plan to make the County Clerk's website more user-friendly and more professionally organized for the public. I will also use my background as a small business consultant to better market revenue-producing opportunities for the Clerk's Office, such as the genealogical records access, the EZ Pass and passport application options, and the "renew local" effort. Finally, I plan to create a County Clerk's Advisory Board made up of key, frequent users of the Clerk's Office and DMV's (such as attorneys, legal secretaries, abstrators, surveyors, historians, auto dealers, town clerks, etc.) to help keep me updated on their ever-changing needs and suggestions for office improvements.

Are there changes in New York law that you would push for as the elected county clerk?

The County Clerk must be able to effectively advocate on behalf of our county's best interests to Albany and Washington when it comes to avoiding local mandates, non-sensical red tape and bolstering funding. I have significantly more experience in this field and the know-how to successfully interface with state and federal leaders.

For example, I would push New York State for an improved revenue-sharing arrangement with local DMV's with regard to vehicle registrations. Currently, Chautauqua County only retains 12.7% of the revenue from vehicle registration renewals when county residents do business in person or mail their renewals directly to the County Clerk. If residents instead mail their renewals to Albany or renew online, the state retains all of the revenue. In the short term, I believe we need to do a better job encouraging residents to renew locally and have called for an aggressive "renew locally" marketing campaign. In the longterm, however, I plan to work together with other County Clerks across New York State to achieve more logical formula-based funding. In this day and age, we should be encouraging efficiency, not disincentivizing people from doing business online. And we must retain dollars in our community, not allow the drain from downstate.

What do you see as the top two issues facing the county clerk's office during the next four years and how would you handle those issues?

I believe the top two issues facing all of Chautauqua County not only the County Clerk are jobs and taxes. We need more jobs and we need to cut our taxes. The County Clerk can play a supportive role in strengthening our economy and alleviating our property tax burden by cutting the cost of Clerk's office operations - returning funds to the county treasury, and ultimately, to the taxpayer. Lower taxes mean a better climate to grow and attract business. More business means more jobs. I am a strong fiscal conservative and plan to continue my record in support of Chautauqua County's best interests as County Clerk.