

NEWSMAKERS OF THE YEAR



Photo courtesy of ABLI

(From left) Hempstead Town Supervisor-elect Laura Gillen, Islip Town Supervisor Angie Carpenter, New York State Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, Nassau County Executive-elect Laura Curran, Association for a Better Long Island President Lauren Harris, Hempstead Town Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney.

THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN

NEW YORKERS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF LEADING
THE CHARGE IN THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

By **ADINA GENN**

In a lot of ways, in a world where #MeToo became a movement, 2017 became the year of the woman. While obstacles remain, women in the forefront in business and government are poised to lead in unprecedented ways, though the momentum has been a long-time coming.

Take the 2017 election, when Nassau residents chose for the first time a woman as county executive, Laura Curran, a Democrat. And Hempstead residents elected as their supervisor, Laura Gillen, the first Democrat to win in over a century.

Both victories were considered

historic wins in a state where the suffrage movement has deep roots and at a time when voters this year pushed for increased transparency.

"I am honored to be the first female county executive," Curran told LIBN.

"This election also tells a larger story — that people want an end to be politics as usual and expect their government to work for them, not the other way around," she said. "I am proud to have earned Nassau residents' trust as the best person to deliver that."

That outlook was echoed in the Town of Hempstead, where Gillen put transparency as the corner-

stone of her campaign.

"We're going to break down the walls of silence and secrecy separating Town Hall from the taxpayers and begin ushering in a new era of openness and transparency in the Town of Hempstead on day one — Jan. 1, 2018," Gillen said in statement.

This is a time when women continue to surge forward on Long Island, and on both sides of the aisle.

"It is a new day in the Town of Hempstead and Nassau County as we continue to break every glass ceiling and embrace bi-partisanship," Hempstead Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney, a Republican,

noted on Facebook. "Now, let's get to work!"

We have seen the Year of the Woman before, with many pointing to 1991, when Anita Hill, a law professor, testified during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that her former boss Clarence Thomas, then a Supreme Court nominee, had sexually harassed her in the workplace. Though Thomas was still confirmed, it was a moment when tides began to change, though from the day's headlines, there's arguably much more work to be done.

Amidst a seemingly daily barrage of sexual misconduct charges

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