

Perlman's attack on VCP slate unwarranted and inaccurate

To the Editor,

So much for nonpartisanship.

In the Friday, March 3, Scarsdale Inquirer, nonpartisan party partisan Andrew Perlman compares my running mates and me to the late communist dictator Hugo Chávez and ups the ante with a sophomoric dig at President Trump, likening us to that "fascist, capitalist."

Bob, Brice, Carlos and I are professionals in the private sector who have degrees in business, accounting, law and economics. We are strong advocates of democratic capitalism and understand capitalism is a system antithetical to both communism and fascism — and, unlike Perlman, we know what all three terms mean.

Perlman further attacks, calling us the "Alternative Facts Party," and claiming that none of us has any operational business experience. Bold-faced lies.

And Perlman claims we are building a wall of politics and rhetoric.

The Voters Choice Party candidates believe competitive elections will lead to more accountable and responsive village government and a restoration in confidence in village government, as our neighbors are, after 100 years, free to choose among candidates of varying skills and viewpoints. We think more voices and more choices are simply

better. We want a Scarsdale governed by the consent of the governed, and suspect voter turnout will be terrific March 21. We are for voter participation and choice.

Mr. Perlman, have you gone to the dictionary to look up fascism yet?

Yes, we want to undo the effects of the Ryan-gate scandal and get the reveal right. People were hurt, and that hurts all of us. We want to clean out the assessor's office and believe that should have been done already — and we don't need an expensive consultant to teach us how to do it. We want fair, ad valorem property taxation of all residences in Scarsdale. But we also want to get tax increases under control; the Scarsdale Village tax levy has exceeded the New York State tax cap every year but one since the tax cap became law in 2011.

We received an email from a village resident this week reminding us, in the past 12 years, village tax rates have increased 69 percent while the general price level measured by the consumer price index increased only 31 percent. We know many, if not most, of our citizen's incomes have not risen by 2.23 times the rate of inflation over the past 12 years as have village tax rates. And surely that includes our empty nesters and seniors on fixed incomes who are

being priced out of town.

This is just plain wrong and it has to stop.

We are disappointed by and concerned about the subpar performance of recent mayors and trustees and we believe more voices and more choices will result in much improved government. Bob Berg, Brice Kirkendall-Rodríguez, Carlos Ramírez and I believe we have the leadership, managerial and financial skills, and independence to get things right. Each of us has stepped up to volunteer a significant part of our time to get Scarsdale back on track.

There are no communist dictators or fascists among the candidates of either party; none of the good people volunteering to run on either ticket deserves Perlman's brand of disgusting partisan hate rhetoric.

In my recent column about model validation, you quite appropriately added under my name that I am a Voters Choice Party candidate for village trustee; it might have been equally appropriate to add under Andrew Perlman's name in his rant against my running mates and me that he is the husband of the nonpartisan party's campaign manager.

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