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## Letters

### Candidates must deal with disability issues

The November elections are important to all citizens in our community. There are many issues facing our elected representatives that may change the way we lead our lives or offer opportunities for each of us. People with disabilities are vulnerable and depend on Congress and state legislators to protect and support them as they strive to be a strong part of the community. People with disabilities are very interested in the upcoming elections and they will vote.

On Oct. 16, the Customer Services Council of Westchester Arc, representing people with developmental disabilities who receive services from our agency, held a meeting at the Doral Arrowwood Conference Center to discuss November election issues with the candidates. The council invited eight candidates to participate but only Sen. Nick Spano attended. The senator addressed questions from the 75-member audience on issues related to Paratransit, employment, voter rights and accessibility, health-care reform and special education.

This was the first time the Customer Services Council has held such an event in an election year, and we hope to do so again. We hope that in the future, more candidates will appreciate the need to address questions of importance to people with developmental disabilities. We are voters and we need to be heard and to hear what our candidates will do to protect our rights in the community.

Chinika Thompson

Richard Swierat

White Plains

The writers are Customer Services Council president and executive director, respectively, Westchester Arc.

### Reminder

A letter will not be considered if it arrives before 30 days has elapsed since publication of the writer's last letter.