

Plenary Speaker Biography

Rebecca Edwards

From the Vassar College Website:

Rebecca Edwards received her PhD in 1995 from the University of Virginia. Her research interests focus on the post-Civil War era and include electoral politics and the history of women and gender. She teaches courses on the 19th-century United States, women in the United States up to 1890, and the American West, including a First-Year Writing Seminar. Professor Edwards is the author of *Angels in the Machinery: Gender in American Party Politics from the Civil War to the Progressive Era* (Oxford University Press, 1997) and *New Spirits: Americans in the "Gilded Age," 1865-1905* (Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2010). She is co-author, with James A. Henretta and Robert O. Self, of *America's History*, 7th edition (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2011). Recent publications include "Women's and Gender History" in *American History Now*, ed. Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr (Temple University Press and the American Historical Association, 2011).

Professor Edwards is currently working on an article about US politics in the 1880s and a collection of documents on the march of Jacob Coxey's army of the unemployed in 1894. She is beginning research for a project about the significance of women's economic and reproductive roles in US political development.

From the Town of Poughkeepsie Website:

The Town Supervisor's mission is to provide leadership to the Town Board, departments, and employees to set directions for the future. **Supervisor Rebecca Edwards** seeks to ensure that Board policies and priorities are carried out; that the Town maximizes and diversifies its sources of revenue and spends funds efficiently; and that the Town provides high-quality, cost-effective services to its residents. The Supervisor communicates with residents, sharing information about Town events and services and keeping residents informed of Board activities and decisions. The Supervisor meets with residents and local stakeholders, as well as with elected and appointed officials in all levels of government.

Communication with residents is a top priority for Supervisor Edwards. Residents can subscribe to the Supervisor's (roughly) biweekly e-newsletter to receive information about Town events and services and Board activities and decisions.

The Town Supervisor is the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, responsible for proposing the annual tentative budget and leading and managing Town finances. The Supervisor is elected to a two-year term and chairs the meetings of the seven-member Town Board, which are generally held twice a month, on the first and third Wednesday nights at 7 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 1 Overocker Road.

The Supervisor manages appointments to the Town's volunteer boards and seeks to ensure the smooth functioning of all aspects of Town government. The Supervisor's office maintains a file of interested volunteers for board and committee appointments and works to foster volunteer participation in Town government. If you are interested in serving on one of our boards, please apply [here](#).