THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román → President: Amy Porter →

July Meeting & Forum

online, via Zoom

Panel Discussion on Racial Justice and Policing

The time is now and the place is here for us to have the challenging and necessary conversation about systemic racism, inequality, and police violence. This American monster will not go away anytime soon unless we name it and face it head-on. The terrible recent murder of Mr. George Floyd – another in the seemingly endless list of African Americans who have lost their lives at the hands of police – has sparked protest and a moral reckoning across our nation. Where do we stand? What do we do? Where do we go from here? How do we make a difference?

Send your questions for our panel (still in formation) to RacialJusticePolicing@broadwaydemocrats.org

Thursday, July 9

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp!

information on how to participate at www.broadwaydemocrats.org or facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Amy Porter ◆

Volume 45, Issue 7 July 2020

8pm NYC + BWY DEMS #BLM

Broadway Democrats, neighbors and friends show up, stand up and protest in solidarity with Black Lives Matter every night at 8pm

Our nightly 15-minute 8:00 p.m. Broadway protest started as a sign of solidarity with those across the city who were bravely defying an unjust curfew to protest in support of Black Lives and against police violence and the laws in place to protect bad cops – i.e., 50(a). We have defeated 50(a) & there is no longer an unjust curfew to curtail free speech, **but our work for justice is not done**.

Our protests continue to grow as more neighbors, friends, mothers, fathers, children and grandparents show up to stand in support of Black Lives Matter and systemic racist police policy and funding change. Cars, buses and bicycles honk in support, and pedestrians give peace signs, clap, raise a fist, cheer or join in. We've grown to protests on both sides of the street and the median. *Please show up and join us too* – bring a friend, bring a sign or make one with our materials when you join us. We are on Broadway and 111th St. every night from 8:00 - 8:15. But you can join the protests on Broadway at 108th Street, 104th Street or 103rd Street – or bring a friend and start your own!









District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Election News

From Around Metro New York

I am thrilled with the all-but-certain victories of Democratic Congressional Candidates Ritchie Torres, Jamaal Bowman, and Mondaire Jones. Torres' victory, over the homophobic Reverend Diaz, was especially satisfying. All three of these dynamic young men represent what we should be looking for from our leaders: firm commitment to progressive principles, great communication skills, ability to work with diverse groups, especially younger people who haven't thus far seen much in the political system to appeal to them. The only thing missing in this "New Squad" is gender diversity. But we do have the resounding victory of one of the leaders of the original Squad, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. And we'd better get the win of one of New York's original feminist champions, Carolyn Maloney. I find her opponent completely unappealing: rich, ethically questionable, and absolutely devoid of any community or issue involvement. Hopefully the absentee ballots will expand Carolyn's slim lead.

From Our District

Not surprisingly, Congress Members Jerry Nadler and Adriano Espaillat and State Senator Robert Jackson won handily, doing even better in our area as they did districtwide. A combination of local pandemic conditions being much better and the Board of Elections being far too slow in getting out the absentee ballots led to our being able on Election Day to go out to our traditional hangout at PS 165 and talk to the voters, who were more numerous than we would have guessed just a few weeks before. Everyone was enjoying being able to do things like go outdoors and vote; almost everyone was looking forward to working to get rid of Trump and take back the Senate in November. Our Go Blue campaign offers many opportunities to do this!

Area Election Results*

Congress, 10th District

Nadler1103 (73%)Boyland287 (19%)Hertzog109 (7%)Write -in4 (0%)

Congress, 13th District

Espaillat1050 (62%)Keith351 (21%Rodriguez285 (17%)Write-in17 (1%)

State Senate, 31st District

Jackson650 (86%)Pina103 (14%)Write-in5 (1%)

President

Biden2171 (68%)Sanders600 (19%)Warren232 (7%)Bloomberg100 (3%)Yang41 (1%)Buttigieg32 (1%)

Klobuchar 14, Gabbard 6, Bennet 5, Patrick 5, Steyer 0 – all round to 0%.

Delegates – Districtwide – 15% needed to qualify

10th District: Biden 64%, Sanders 16%. If these numbers hold, Biden would elect 6 delegates, Sanders 1. Biden will elect between 5 and 7 delegates, Sanders between 0 and 2.

13th **District: Biden** 64% Sanders 20%. Biden will almost certainly elect 6 delegates, Sanders 2.

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District Leader's Report

Paula Diamond Román

On May 25th, George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, with his accomplices, Police Officers James Kueng, Thomas Lane, and Tou Thao. Chauvin had eighteen complaints filed against him, two of which resulted in disciplinary action, including official letters of reprimand; he had also been involved in three police shootings, two of which resulted in medals of valor. Thao has six complaints filed against him but no disciplinary action; Kueng and Lane have had no complaints against them, but the killing took place during their first week on the job.

With the wide-spread anger in the wake of George Floyd's death, exacerbated by the incredible racial disparity of COVID-19 cases and deaths, there have been protests nationwide and a call to change the nature of policing dramatically. Statues of confederate "heroes" that were the subject of debate for years have now been torn down. Minneapolis halted contract negotiations with the police until

^{*} Based on complete machine tallies; no absentee ballots have yet been counted. The absentees should more than double, and will possibly triple, the final counts, but won't change any local results except possibly for Convention Delegate in the 10th CD.

measures of accountability could be included, Louisville banned "no-knock" warrants, and New York City removed one billion dollars from the NYPD budget. Numerous states and localities quickly passed police reform laws that had been the subject of debate for years. In New York State, these bills included: repealing 50a which protected police officers and troopers' disciplinary actions from being made public; protecting the right to film police activity; requiring law enforcement to provide medical and mental health care to people in custody. to report discharging their weapons within six hours, even when off-duty, and to release data on policing and its impact on communities; as well as the "Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act" sponsored by our own State Senator Benjamin.

So, what now? There is still an incredible amount of work to be done. Racial justice is a much bigger thing than just policing and prosecution. Black Lives Matter has expanded and organized into a formidable warrior for racial justice, along with many other organizations both new and established. Right now, however, we're focusing on racial justice and policing. At our last forum, the Broadway Democrats passed a resolution (printed elsewhere in this newsletter), urging the NYPD to adopt the eight recommendations of the #8CantWait policies recommended by Campaign Zero, several of which were covered in the New York State legislature's recent bills.

Because I believe an office of independent prosecutors necessary for true police accountability, that's one of the things I want to focus on next, although we may have to wait for some of its developments until the change in federal administration in November. Also, on the local electoral front, we have an election for New York County District Attorney next year which could have major ramifications. I've recently become involved with Driven By Justice, which is advocating for a change in how legal fees and fines are repaid and eliminating seizing driver's licenses, without which many people can't get to work. (In some states, this even affects people's ability to vote.) The current system of legal fees and fines disproportionately impacts people of color and was one of the reasons for the rage in Ferguson, even predating the killing of Michael Brown.

I'm sure everyone has their list of priorities to address first. It's essential that the movement that has arisen in the wake of George Floyd's death doesn't splinter into different factions but it's just as essential that we recognize that not all the changes we seek will happen as quickly. We will only achieve the reforms and justice we are seeking by standing

together and continuing to march forward slowly and steadily. One of my favorite quotes of Martin Luther King Jr. says that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." However, he also recognized that it was necessary to apply steady pressure to that arc to continue its bend in the just direction.

I hope that you all will join us on July 9th when we discuss "Racial Justice and Policing" with experts, including journalists, elected officials, and justice activist Victoria Davis whose brother Delrawn Small was killed by an off-duty police officer, four years ago on the Fourth of July. This will be an opportunity for us to hear about and discuss further actions we can take.

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Stay in touch!

Visit our newly redesigned website at www.broadwaydemocrats.org

or

join us on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/

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President's Corner

Amy Porter

I write to you now as our city is in Phase Two of Reopening. It has been heartwarming to walk down the street and see many of the old businesses and restaurants we know and love. One of the things I missed dearly during social isolation was not being able to pick up a book with my hands and linger with it awhile before buying. So I am particularly pleased that I can now do some limited browsing at Book Culture. As New Yorkers, we are proud to be a model for the rest of the country in our science based data driven model for how to reopen.

Meanwhile, reopening is more complicated and stressful for many of us than shutting down the city was. COVID-19 is still with us and those of us at risk remain at risk. As our streets, businesses, subways and buses become active, keeping a 6 foot distance becomes more challenging, especially when there are people on the street not wearing masks. (Even for those of us committed to our masks, the summer humidity makes wearing them more challenging.) We can take some comfort that transmission is far

less likely outdoors. But each of us now has to decide, based on our own level of risk, how much to emerge from isolation.

I encourage everyone, as you engage more in the city, to keep wearing masks and maintaining as much physical distance as possible. This is for the sake of protecting others, if not for your own selves. As we heard at our last Zoom Forum, in Chinatown, where everyone wears masks, there are hardly any COVID cases; while in other areas where people do not wear masks, infection rates and deaths are high.

At our last Zoom Forum, we were delighted to discuss the city's reopening with Senators Robert Jackson and Brian Benjamin, and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Thanks to Paula Diamond-Román for organizing and running the meeting.

Because of the success of our previous Zoom Forums and wanting to remain connected with you during this critical year, the Steering Committee has decided to continue holding them throughout the summer. Our upcoming Zoom Forum will focus on Racial Justice.

Broadway Dems participated in a vigil sponsored by Upper West Side MoveOn/Indivisible Action Group. It was lovely to walk to the Fireman's Monument to celebrate Juneteenth and support Black Lives Matter.

Every night at 8 pm for about 15 minutes, Broadway Dems and neighbors come together at 111th Street and Broadway to show support for Black Lives Matter. We get a lot of appreciation from cars, buses and people walking by. You can also join your neighbors at other street corners along Broadway, including 108th, 107th and 103rd Streets. Or better yet, start a group with neighbors on your block!

We have had numerous, ongoing letter writing and phone calling activities from our Go Blue Committee, which you will see described here. We also held three Text Banking sessions for Congressman Nadler and Phone Banking for Congressman Espaillat. We are doing so many events these days that we can't keep up with ourselves! So we are in initial planning stages of putting together a weekly list of all our activities to post by email and on our website.

On New York Primary Election Day, Curtis, Paula, Luis, Meika, Joe and Noah were by our table in front of our polling site. They reported it was terrific to be outside again and that voting was safe and organized. I voted early at Columbia University's Wien Hall and also found it safe, easy, and lovely; everyone was masked, kept social distance, and

was given hand sanitizer. This all bodes well for us voting in person in November, whether early or on actual Election Day.

We are joining with Danny O'Donnell's office in an online event to raise our district's census count. If interested in participating, please contact me.

I really miss being able to meet and speak with you, unmasked and in person. So, as the next best thing, I will be sending out invitations to Broadway Dem members to meet and chat with me by Zoom. Heather Ducharme and I would like to speak with you about some of the questions in the survey she put together, as well as whatever else is on your mind. If you want to be sure to get an invitation and especially if you just recently joined, please email me at aporter.bwaydem@gmail.com.

You don't have to live in our district to be a club member. Become a member or renew your membership at: www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html.

Please come join us!

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State Committeeman Report

Daniel Marks Cohen

The Overton Window is a concept from Joseph P. Overton, who created the idea at a Michigan think tank in the '90s. The idea is that public policy ideas are generally within a "window" of public acceptance, and anything outside the window is dismissed as absurd or impractical or impossible. To "shift the Overton Window" on an idea is to bring an initially dismissed idea into the realm of the possible, even the preferable.

We are all seeing that right now, thanks to the Black Lives Matter movement. The idea of defunding the police (which really means substantially cutting the police budget, not eliminating it entirely), has gone from almost impossible to imagine to most likely to occur – consider that the 2016 budget under former City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito passed overwhelmingly (Brooklyn's Inez Barron was the sole dissenter), and at that time it included \$170 million for 1,300 more police officers. That is hard to imagine happening now in this current climate, and it speaks to how the BLM movement has moved the focus away from the status quo on the priorities of the council. Another way to say this is that the BLM movement has shifted the Overton Window on public support of police funding, from totally virtually unchallenged support to questioning and reallocating.

There have been other shifts in the Overton Window – gay marriage went from being a fringe concept (I recall that the marriage alternative once being bandied about at the time was "civil union") to approved in New York (through the longstanding work of our Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell in 2011) and then Supreme Court cases (*US v. Windsor* in 2012 and *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015) and then it became law. Here too, the long work of LGBTQ activists and allies over many years helped bring it about, shifting the Overton Window on LGBTQ rights and equality.

And there are still others to come – national healthcare, the Green New Deal, and more.

So what does the Overton Window shifting actually document? I believe it recognizes the culmination of a change in public policy, and is a way of capturing the moment when activist action rises to the point of acceptability, and change is broadly, publicly witnessed. Moving the window, changing the policy, is the product of many years of work, often with little hope of immediate change, but fueled by righteous fire, the world is shifted. That some of us may have seen the path of change early on (sometimes I have, sometimes I haven't) - for whatever the cause, but that so many more of us are now part of the movement for transformation is what makes this point in time, full of uncertainty, also full of another thing: hope. Hope that maybe we CAN make the changes we seek, to make our city, and state, and country, better. The work is not finished, in some cases it has not even begun. But it is there for us to join. And - surely like many of you - I'm excited to be a part of it.

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HELP THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS **GROW!**

Pass this newsletter on to a friend or a new neighbor

DUES: SENIORS \$10/yr, ALL OTHERS \$25/yr

SEND TO: **BROADWAY DEMOCRATS**P.O. BOX 1099 CATHEDRAL STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10025
or join online at
http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/sign-up-to-join-the-club.html

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IMADEMOCRAT!

Ed Sullivan

Opportunity Knocks!

The President of the United States is as loony as a bed bug. He is crazy. The power he believes he has as President has rendered him incapable of thinking rationally. You can see that, can't you? Have you been paying attention?

Trump claims that under his leadership the U.S. has handled the coronavirus crisis better than any other country. The most stunning refutation of this lie is a comparison with South Korea. The U.S. has 6 times the population of South Korea, but has 120 times as many deaths due to coronavirus as South Korea.

If you measure the number of deaths due to coronavirus per one hundred thousand people, the United States is the fourth worst in the world – not the best, the fourth worst! – worse than Mexico, worse than Canada. Only England, Spain and Italy are worse than the U.S. under Trump.

Donald Trump seems to think that he masterfully manipulated the Republic of North Korea in his meetings over the past few years with Kim Jong-un, North Korea's President. The opposite is the case. North Korea got what it wanted from those meetings – recognition as one of the world's nuclear powers. That's what they wanted; that's what they got. The United States got nothing. The con artist from Queens got conned.

The Republican Party has apparently sold its soul to the devil's disciple, Donald J. Trump. This event would hardly be worth noticing were it not for the fact that Mr. Trump is President of the United States. But he is! And he is on track to destroy the United States as a world power, as surely and as completely as Moby Dick destroyed the whaling ship Pequod. And the McConnell Republicans in the Senate are doing nothing about it – nothing.

Is there anything that can be done? Yes, there is.

The Democratic Party can begin immediately to create a shadow government focused on issues that the people care about. This should begin now, not "after the election." Right now:

 Racism has plagued our country since before the United States was born. National leaders must unite in stamping out racism forever. We must grind racism into dust. More, we must draw from all peoples the cultural qualities that develop into greatness.

- Immigration is mother's milk to America. It feeds us. The world needs America and America needs the world. E pluribus unum.
- Income Inequality puts the lie to our claim that "All men are created equal." We can become more equal, but that means helping one another. Helping one another makes us all greater.
- **Education** is the key to success. Every child must be fully educated. It is our duty.
- Health Care must be available to everyone

 everyone. A healthy country is a strong country.
- Our Environment is our home. We like it here on earth. Let's take care of it.
- Art and Literature tell us who we are. Artists and writers of all kinds must be encouraged with applause – and funds.
- Emergency Services police, firefighters and medics – are here to protect all of us, not just some. Let us support them as they do that.

What's that sound? It's opportunity knocking.

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Go Blue 2020!

Meika A. Mustrangi

We're working hard as if our lives depended on it – because lives do depend on increasing Democracy in this country

Go Blue is steaming ahead with regular activities every week. Join us! We have phone banks on Mon, Wed, Thur, and Sun evenings and we write Reclaim Our Vote postcards and Vote Forward letters on Sundays. It all happens on Zoom so we can stay socially distant, but after the initial training, which happens at the beginning of every session, you can also volunteer on your own time. We have been focusing on the last primary elections of this cycle but will soon switch gears to GOTV and campaigning for the November election.

Mondays 4-5pm we help the re-election campaign of US Rep. Max Rose in Staten Island/Brooklyn. Many of us helped elect Rep. Rose two years ago, reversing years of Republican control of that seat in Congress — and we are not going back. The race is competitive, with the Republican opponent, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, having been endorsed by Trump. Rep. Rose can use all the help we can give him.

Wednesdays 5-7pm we phone bank with Reclaim Our Vote, a campaign started in late 2017 (with the Special Senate Election in AL) by the non-partisan Center for Common Ground. Reclaim Our Vote's unique mission is to empower underrepresented voters of color in states with voter suppression, which has been growing since the 2013 Supreme Court decision *Shelby County vs. Holder* that stripped away many voter protections. In 2020 Reclaim Our Vote is focusing on 6 states: AZ, TX, MS, AL, GA, and NC. Of those, Go Blue has selected AZ, TX, GA, and NC because they're also Swing Left "Super" states (where we have a chance to win back the WH and Senate and state legislature seats).

Reclaim Our Vote phone banks are special for many reasons: they are non-partisan, providing information on re-registering to vote (since many of these voters are victims of voter roll purges), as well as information on voting by mail and early voting. These voters also often live in low-income rural areas that are traditionally bypassed by partisan campaigns, so they appreciate us reaching out and providing them with voting information. We called GA for their primary election and now we are calling TX for their run-off primary coming up on July 14. After TX we will probably call NC.

Thursdays 4-6pm the phone banking is focused on flipping Senate seats in ME and KY. Although we are working to put Democrats in the Senate, we are well aware of down-ballot races in the districts that we call, including Congressional and State House races. We partner with the ME Dem. Party and the Louisville, KY Dems. Currently the ME phone bank is focused on collecting data - are voters planning to vote Democrat or Republican - and providing information on voting-by-mail for the July 14 primary. We'll pivot to support the Democratic Senate candidates in both states once they're chosen.

Sundays 12-2pm we alternate writing Vote Forward letters (www.voteforward.org) and Reclaim Our Vote postcards. Vote Forward is partnering with Swing Left to organize letter-writing to voters in "Super" states asking them to vote in November. Two million letters have already been written by volunteers across the country and the plan is to write many, many more. The letters will be mailed in late October in order to have the biggest impact on GOTV for the general elections. Reclaim Our Vote postcards can vary in objective, depending on the voters we are reaching at any time. So far we have provided voters with information on checking their registration status so they can re-register if necessary, information on voting by mail, and information on a "pledge to vote in Nov" campaign

spearheaded by the NAACP that encourages voters to invite friends and family and offers a host of follow-up resources to help them vote.

Sundays 4-6pm we again phone bank with Reclaim Our Vote.

Join the Go Blue Team. If you have a little bit of time to spare, we'll make sure the time you spend volunteering for this year's election will be well worth it. Help us *increase democracy in this country*.



Disclaimer: unless otherwise indicated, items herein reflect the views of their authors only. They are published as a part of our club's commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas on topics of interest, but their publication should not be construed as an endorsement by the editor, the Steering Committee, or the Broadway Democrats club.

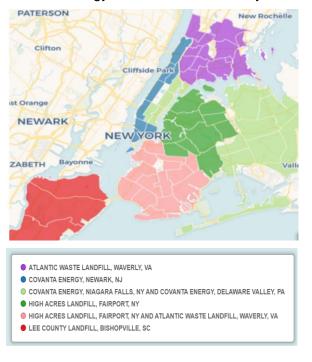
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Is this Environmental Justice?

Katie Hanner

Where does my garbage go?

NYC stopped incinerating garbage in the five boroughs years ago. Does that mean that our garbage is not incinerated? Sadly no. As shown on the map, garbage from Manhattan's West Side, yes, that stuff in the black bags, goes to an incinerator run by Covanta Energy in Newark, New Jersey.



What can we do about this? Lots – one thing we do is to demand that funding be restored for organics collection since 40% of our non-recycled trash is organic material. Indeed, **mandating organic recycling** would do even more. For more info on what you can do, including policy initiatives, check out the MSWAB website: manhttanswab.org.

For a better look at the map, go to: https://bcheney.carto.com/viz/db6e4f87-dc47-4bfd-b5b4-9a5d4d429e34/public_map

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We want to hear what *you* have to say! Please email newsletter submissions to bdemsnewsletter@gmail.com (in MS Word format if possible, please).

Please note that we will consider all submissions, but we reserve the exclusive and final right to determine what to publish.

Resolution passed June 11th

We are living in an extraordinary moment of revolutionary change. The nation has been galvanized into action by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. Their deaths have come to symbolize centuries of abuse and oppression suffered by Blacks, Indigenous Americans, and other people of color subject to the racism and prejudice structured within many of the institutions of American society.

Broadway Democrats supports the thousands of peaceful protests happening throughout the country and across the world, that are demanding substantive, far-reaching change to remove the racist and discriminatory influences in law enforcement and other institutions that have disproportionately affected people of color in the United States.

We applaud Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell and the State legislature for passing the repeal of Civil Rights Law Section 50-A and we urge Governor Cuomo to sign the legislation. We support further legislation designed to reduce violence by police.

We urge the NYPD to adopt the eight recommendations of the #8CantWait policies recommended by Campaign Zero (www.joincampaignzero.org; www.8cantwait.org) to reduce police violence:

- 1. Requiring de-escalation;
- 2. Requiring officers to intervene to stop excessive force by other officers;
- 3. Restricting officers from shooting at moving vehicles;
- 4. Developing Force Continuum that limits the types of force and/or weapons that are used to respond to specific types of resistance;
- 5. Banning chokeholds and strangleholds;
- 6. Requiring a warning before resorting to deadly force;
- 7. Requiring that all alternatives are exhausted before using deadly force; and
- 8. Requiring officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians.

We support the right of peaceful protestors to demand justice, free from the disgraceful and violent tactics employed by law enforcement, such as the unlawful use of force and weapons such as rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper balls and batons.

We encourage everyone to exercise their right to protest, while maintaining proper behaviors to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Special Club Election

At our next Zoom meeting on July 9, the Broadway Democrats will hold a special election to fill a vacancy on the Steering Committee. Mary Peppito has been nominated. Other nominations may be made at the meeting.

In order to be eligible to vote in this (or any) Club election, you must have attended one of the Club's prior nine meetings and be current with your dues. You can pay your dues online at http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html.

Send to: The Broadway Democrats, P.O. Box 1099, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025
Special Interests:
:lism-3
Address:
Name: (title, honorifics, and pronouns optional)
To join the Broadway Democrats, please fill out the form below and mail with your check (made out to "Broadway Democrats") to the address at the bottom. Welcome!
In order to vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention, amendments), you must be an eligible, voting member of the Broadway Democrats. You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues. Dues partially defray the costs of presenting forums and putting out this newsletter. Dues are \$25; senior dues are \$10.
Membership

The Broadway Democrats Newsletter – July 2020

FIRST

CLASS

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