
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Joe Nunley ◆

Dear Broadway Democrats,

We've decided to wait another year to have our annual Holiday Party but we'd still really like the opportunity for all of us to spend some time together, chatting about the past year in our community and in the larger world of politics. No forum topic, no authorities on a subject – just us!

**Please join us on Zoom
this Thursday, December 9 at 7:30-9:30pm.**

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/BdwyDems-Holiday-Zoom>

We hope everyone will get a chance to talk, so please bring a piece of good news about your neighborhood, your activism, what has happened in Albany, Washington D.C., or the wider world. (If you have a picture of a brand-new family member, your building's new composting bins, or protests you've attended, please send them and we'll show them off at some point!)

We hope you'll sit back, pour yourself a cup of coffee or an adult beverage, and spend some time with your Broadway Democrats friends and neighbors! And, feel free to invite *other* friends and neighbors to join us. It's a good time to chat.

Register in advance: <https://tinyurl.com/BdwyDems-Holiday-Zoom>

Happy Holidays

for more information: DistrictLeaders@BroadwayDemocrats.org

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Spotlight: Steering Committee Member Liam Elkind

Twenty-two year old Liam Elkind, senior at Yale University double majoring in Ethics, Politics, and Economics and Global Affairs and one of the newest members of the Broadway Democrats Steering Committee, is also a recently announced recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship. A lifelong resident of the Upper West Side and Morningside Heights, Elkind co-founded [Invisible Hands](#) in March 2020 to help deliver groceries and medicine to New York residents most at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. The non-profit is now transitioning to address food insecurity and has expanded into Westchester, Long Island, and New Jersey, and will soon be in Atlanta.

Steering Committee Members and Go Blue Co-Chairs Laura Danford Mandel and Mary Peppito sat down via Zoom with Liam as he is finishing his last semester at Yale and gearing up to start his graduate studies in October 2022 in comparative government between the United States and the United Kingdom – specifically reform, campaign financing and voting rights – at the University of Oxford. [You can watch the interview here.](#)



“I tend to think about my career and my life less in terms of the positional authority I will have or the job title I will hold and more in terms of the impact that I can make ... so whatever that position is where I can be doing the work that overlaps my greatest passions with the world’s greatest needs, which is for me, democracy reform ... Wherever I can have the most impact, that’s where I want to be.”

Congratulations to Rhodes Scholar Liam Elkind!

President’s Corner

Joe Nunley

The Whole World is Watching

Steven Donziger is an environmental and human rights lawyer who won a \$9.5 billion settlement against Chevron on behalf of 30,000 indigenous people in Ecuador for dumping millions of gallons of toxic oil waste in the Amazon rainforest. But instead of cleaning up the spill as they were required to or paying the settlement, Chevron sued Mr. Donziger, claiming he fabricated the evidence and bribed a judge in Ecuador. Then Judge Lewis A. Kaplan of

the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, a former corporate lawyer with close ties to Chevron, charged Mr. Donziger with criminal contempt for refusing to turn over client communications on his phone and computer. Donziger was denied a jury trial and is currently serving six months in prison.

Last week nine House Democrats called on Attorney General Merrick Garland and the Department of Justice to intervene in the case. The letter makes note of President Biden’s assertions of U.S. leadership on climate at the recent COP-26 summit, saying “the entire world is watching whether our action will match our words.”

Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich), who co-wrote the letter, said in a statement: “Chevron is setting a dangerous precedent that other corporate polluters will follow to avoid responsibility from the devastation they cause, and DOJ should intervene immediately and rectify the situation or risk endorsing it as a blueprint for turning victims and their lawyers into criminals.”

She said “That an internationally respected human rights lawyer sits in prison right now while Chevron avoids billion in judgements for intentionally destroying the rainforest is an outrage that highlights just how critical our fight against corporate greed is to our future.”

In addition to Tlaib, the letter was signed by Jamaal Bowman (D-NY), Alexandria Occasio-Cortez (D-NY), Chuy Garcia (D-IL), Cory Bush (D-MO), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Raul Grijalva (D-AZ).

The BBC recently reported that 227 environmental and land-rights activists were murdered around the world in 2020, breaking the record for the second consecutive year.

Almost a third of these murders were reportedly linked to resource exploitation – logging, mining, large-scale agri-business, hydroelectric dams and other infrastructure. These are environmental defenders killed for protecting natural resources that need to be preserved, including forests, water supplies and oceans.

This is how serious things have become. Global Witness says that since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, an average of four activists have been killed each week. Indigenous people, most often on the frontline of climate change, accounted for one third of the cases. Columbia had the highest number of attacks, with 65 people killed last year.

Chris Madden of Global Witness called this “another stark reminder that fighting the climate crisis causes an unbearably heavy burden for some, who risk their lives to save the forests, rivers and biospheres that are essential to counteract unsustainable global warming.”

In the United States, thankfully, environmental activists haven’t been killed yet but thousands have been jailed – including indigenous activists fighting against Line 3, a 330-mile pipeline that will deliver oil from Alberta’s tar sands to the United States. A recent report said that the environmental impact of Line 3 would be equivalent to 50 coal-powered plants and 38 million additional gasoline-powered vehicles on our roads.

To his credit, President Biden has already gone further than any of his predecessors in combating climate change. The Build Back Better Act includes the most sweeping climate legislation in our nation’s history. Let’s hope it passes the Senate.

President Biden needs to go even further. Senate Majority Leader Schumer has urged the president to declare a climate emergency. Schumer said, “If ever there was an emergency, the climate crisis is one.” This would open up executive powers that would enable President Biden to evade many of the roadblocks erected by the 50 Republicans in the Senate.

On the first day of his presidency Biden cancelled the Keystone XL pipeline. Now he should shut down Line 3.

The Broadway Democrats should pass resolutions in January urging President Biden to declare “A National Emergency on Climate Change” and declaring our opposition to the Line 3 Pipeline. Meanwhile, go to [Stop Line 3](#) to learn how to help – and of course, contact your representatives in Congress. Let’s make sure our actions match our words.



<p>HELP THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS GROW!</p> <p><i>Pass this newsletter on to a friend or a new neighbor</i></p> <p>DUES: SENIORS \$10/yr, ALL OTHERS \$25/yr</p> <p>SEND TO: BROADWAY DEMOCRATS P.O. BOX 1099 CATHEDRAL STATION NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10025</p> <p><i>or join online at</i> http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/ sign-up-to-join-the-club.html</p>
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Club Resolutions – November 2021

Meika A. Mustrangi

At the Club’s November 11 meeting we unanimously passed a resolution supporting the parole reform bills ‘Elder Parole’ and ‘Fair and Timely Parole’. The Elder Parole bill ([S15-Hoylman/A3475-De La Rosa](#)) and the Fair and Timely Parole bill ([S1415-Rivera/A4231-Weprin](#)) were introduced in the NYS Legislature in January 2021 but were not brought to a vote in the State

Senate and Assembly. We will be supporting both bills as they are reconsidered in the NYS Legislature in 2022.

State Senator Robert Jackson and Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell are co-sponsors of both bills. Then-Senator Brian Benjamin was also a co-sponsor until he became Lieutenant Governor.

The **Elder Parole bill** will make people in prison who are at least 55 years old *and* have served at least 15 years of their sentences eligible to be considered for parole (i.e. to make their case in front of the Parole Board). For those who are eligible to be considered for parole, the **Fair and Timely Parole bill** will improve how parole decisions are made. Instead of giving sole weight to the person's original crime – in so many cases committed decades ago – parole decisions will consider what people have done during their time in prison and evidence of their rehabilitation.

We will be joining Release Aging People from Prison (RAPP) in 2022 as they push again for passage of both bills. You can find more information, sign up for updates from the campaign, and donate to support their work at rappcampaign.com.

Our country is finally coming to terms with the fact that we have become a Mass Incarceration Nation and looking critically at our failure to promote public safety as well as its deeply unfair and discriminatory history. People should not die in prison – or be released at the very end of their lives – as a consequence of extremely long sentences. Revenge for crimes committed decades ago should not be our guiding principle. Our society will be stronger when we support each other and believe in second chances.



One Easy Thing

Allison Downing

I send a weekly email to some friends suggesting One Easy Thing we can all do that week – no matter how busy we are – to help Democrats and the Democratic cause. Here's a recent suggestion:

First: think of a thing that makes you happy. Is it kittens? Craft beer? Puppeteering? It can be anything. Mine is rollercoasters. Let's call this your One Cheerful Thing.

Second: every time you read or hear someone purporting to know how things are going to turn out in November 2022 and offering bleak nihilism and dark prognostications, just close your eyes for half a second and think of your One Cheerful Thing to get you in the right mood.

Third: open your eyes and say: "Telling me that you know what will happen over the next eleven months, and that it will be bad, is your way of coping with the darkness. I get it. It is emotionally easier to talk a lot about the worst things because then when things do go wrong, as we know they do sometimes, the feeling of vindication that you, Stater-of-the-Sad, get makes you feel powerful in a world over which we really, none of us, have any control at all."

Fourth: then say: "But let me let you in on a secret: we haven't lost yet! In fact, we can brag loud and hard that the world is way, way, **way** better because we won in 2018 and 2020! There are many reasons for hope in this world and [fill in the blank with your One Cheerful Thing] is one of them! You will not convince me to join you down in the Sad when I can be up here with our Democratic successes and my One Cheerful Thing!"

(Side note: Democrats love the wonky and the facts, and so [here's a link to some of the wonk and the fact](#), but right now what I want you to do is just to **feel**. Feel about your One Cheerful Thing and vaccines, child tax credits, and massive infrastructure improvements. These are all astonishing, amazing, awesome things! In this moment, don't let yourself ponder the things that we had hoped to have by now but don't quite have yet, but instead immerse yourself fully for two seconds in happiness that our wins, big and small, have gotten us to this place!)

Fifth: while you're at it, in this hopeful frame of mind because you have just turned a dark moment into a small flicker of hope, text a friend something positive – maybe a picture of your One Cheerful Thing. Spread cheer as an antidote to the Sad.

We can each control our own narratives, the ones we tell just to ourselves. We can each use this one precious and wild life that we have been given to listen to the Staters-of-the-Sad and let them pull us down into the dark with them, **or** we can listen to our hearts, which are, deep down in there, I promise, yearning for the positive. We can ponder our One Cheerful Things, send loving thoughts towards the Staters-of-the-Sad, and choose to trumpet the fact

that we are all spectacularly better off today with 2018 and 2020 Dem wins than we would have been. That's both a fact and an emotion, so it suits the Dem thirst for facts *and* feeds the emotion-loving soul.

So, this is a long message to say: when you see someone who is grim about Democratic prospects next year, remind yourself and them that ***the antidote to despair is action***, and that we have almost a year left for our action. We have enough time, we have enough good news, and we have enough people power. When we stick together with positive hopeful emotional messages, we will win. Let the joy of celebrating past amazing wins get you to gently refuse to be demoralized by people who are in the grip of their darker angels just now. You can help them see more clearly the hope and good that is out there, and you can help yourself as well.



Stay in touch!

visit us at

<http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org>

or

join us on Facebook at

[facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/)



State Committeeman Report

Daniel Marks Cohen

Following the poor showing of the Democrats on Election Day this November, I joined a group of members of the State Democratic Committee to bring a motion of “no confidence” in the ability of current party chair, Jay Jacobs, to lead the party. This motion follows several high-profile defeats, including important losses on statewide ballot initiatives 1, 3 and 4, and the loss of winnable Democratic offices in New York City, on Long Island, in Buffalo, and in Syracuse. Together we released the following statement:

There ought to be no question that the November 2 election was a series of devastating defeats for the Democratic Party and New Yorkers – defeats which could have been avoided with better leadership.

The failure of three ballot initiatives related to voting reform is a stain on the Democratic party in New York State. In 21 states and the District of Columbia, same-day voter registration is the law of the land; it helps lay the foundation for an inclusive democracy.

But Democratic party leader Jay Jacobs made no investments to promote these important proposals, while Republican party leaders toured the state rallying against them, investing more than \$3 million which was funneled through the state's Conservative Party. New York Senate Democratic Leadership requested assistance from our State Democratic party with the ballot proposition campaign, to no avail. Our Democratic leaders in Congress and across the country are fighting for voting rights, but in our own state, our Democratic leader was either unaware that these proposals might not pass, or unconcerned. Either way, it speaks to a need for new leadership at the earliest opportunity.

In this election cycle, our Democrats on Long Island, Upstate, and in Brooklyn and Queens, were attacked with disinformation and lies from Republicans and were too often left undefended by the state party. In what should have been victories, our candidates were defeated, and these losses will move New York backwards in our fight against the pandemic and our fight for safe and thriving communities.

Instead of focusing on uniting our party to win this year's general elections across the state (and to win our critical ballot proposals), our chair instead divided us by attacking some candidates and endorsing others in next year's Democratic Primaries. Jay Jacobs took his eye off the ball, and the entire state has had to suffer the consequences of his lack of focus, his incompetence and his deeply culturally insensitive remarks. While GOP Chair Nick Langworthy and Republican leaders around the state were organizing against vital election reforms, our party leader was comparing the nominee of our party for mayor of the state's second largest city to an avowed white supremacist. This is simply not acceptable. Our party needs leadership that will not be distracted from the priority of winning elections, that will organize and motivate Democrats at all levels in the state, and will guard against careless and insensitive remarks that are harmful to vital members of the Democratic coalition.

This Fall, one party was united and marching towards victory while the other was fighting itself. These failures fall upon Jay Jacobs' shoulders. He lost critical elections, including important races for County Executive and

District Attorney in his own county of Nassau.

Jay Jacobs is not the Democratic leader that New Yorkers need to maintain our majority and sustain a healthy party. With so much at stake in the 2022 midterms, we can't afford another year of poor leadership. We must work together, with full trust in each other and the highest level of enthusiasm and engagement, to maintain the governorship, as well as US Senate, US House, NY Senate, and NY Assembly majorities.

Alas, we lost the vote of no confidence at the meeting on November 16, with 25 in favor versus 144 against (and 8 abstentions), but a number of downstate and progressive-leaning colleagues joining me in voting for the motion. I believe we have started the process of reducing the likelihood of Jacobs remaining State Party chair, and increasing the chance of a replacement, and possibly an actual election, in the coming year. I personally like Jacobs, but the disappointing statements and actions by him and the State Party make it clear it is time for new leadership. I will keep you updated on how this process unfolds, as it has only just begun.

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At the Club's November 11, 2021 meeting, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

Governor Hochul: due to multiple significant failures of leadership, including but not limited to his active refusal to support the duly-nominated Democratic candidate for mayor of Buffalo, as well as his complete abdication of responsibility to educate voters about and work to pass all five Democratic-sponsored ballot propositions, three of which failed to pass in the most recent election, we, the Broadway Democratic Club, do hereby call on you to ask for Jay Jacobs' resignation from his position as the Chairman of the New York State Democratic Party.

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Saving Democracy in 2022

Laura Danford Mandel and Mary Peppito

I would be surprised if Pennsylvania's 2022 races aren't the most competitive in the nation, and the most watched in the nation.

Nick Field, correspondent for the Pennsylvania Capital-Star

For 2022, Go Blue is concentrating on counterbalancing the Republican anti-Democratic voter suppression tactics in Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, December 4, we tabled in Riverside Park and West 108th Street, talking to our friends and neighbors about joining our efforts. Thirty new volunteers signed up to join us to help keep Pennsylvania blue.

On Sunday, December 5, we hit the ground in Philadelphia coordinating with [Field Team 6](#), talking one on one with registered and unregistered eligible voters about the high stakes in the 2022 midterm elections.



The stakes could not be higher and we encourage all to join our ongoing efforts to keep Pennsylvania blue. Read articles [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) about why we MUST act NOW:

Our next trip to Pennsylvania is scheduled for Saturday, January 15. Please contact shelbyddnyc@gmail.com for information.

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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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We Want To Hear What *You* Have To Say!



Email submissions to the editor (in MS Word, please) at palmonrode@gmail.com.

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

Send to: The Broadway Democrats, P.O. Box 1099, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025

Special Interests: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

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 – December 2021

FIRST
CLASS

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