
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◇ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◇ President: Heather Ducharme ◇

Volume 46, Issue 2

February
2021

Manhattan Borough President Candidates & 2021 Endorsements

Invited Speakers

Benjamin Kallos
Brad Hoylman
Elizabeth Caputo
Kimberly Watkins
Lindsey Boylan
Mark Levine

Thursday, February 11th 7:00pm - 9:00pm

It's time for our 2021 Endorsements meeting where we will be voting for our endorsements for our local races including City Council, Manhattan District Attorney, Manhattan Borough President, Comptroller, Public Advocate, and Mayor.

We will also be hearing from our Manhattan Borough President candidates from 7:00pm - 7:45pm.

To be eligible to vote, you must pay your dues by **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10th by 7 PM**. More information on paying dues and voting eligibility is included at the end of this newsletter.

All eligible voting members will receive a voting link. If you do not receive your link or you need a paper ballot, please contact District Leaders Paula Diamond Román & Curtis Arluck at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org.

To register, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkfu-upzwrGtZVyg9jdHjjZr9SSq7fIVsu>

President's Corner

Heather Ducharme

Hello friends and members!

I'm Heather Ducharme - the newly elected President of the Broadway Democrats. I am very excited and honored to be taking on this role, and I am looking forward to leading the Steering Committee and the Club through this next year.

Next week, we have our endorsement meeting where we will be voting on endorsing candidates for various local offices including City Council District 07, Manhattan District Attorney, Manhattan Borough President, Mayor and more! Please make sure that if you are planning to attend and vote that you are eligible. Eligibility criteria can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Last month, we had a great book club meeting where we discussed *How Democracies Die* by Stephen Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. The book was very fitting given the events of the past month and how the Trump presidency has brought our democracy to a dangerous breaking point. I hope that through the election of our new President Joe Biden and the Democrats holding a majority in both houses of Congress, we are able to bring back a respect for our democratic institutions and values.

In non-club related news, I encourage everyone to see when they will be eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. You can see more detailed information as well as where you can get your vaccine if you are eligible at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>.

As we move forward, I hope you will join us as we continue to fight for progressive causes. If you are interested in joining the club you can check out our website broadwaydemocrats.org or you can email me at heatherducharme15@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Heather Ducharme, President of Broadway Democrats

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Biden Is Off to a Good Start

As I write this, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have been in office for nearly two weeks, and so far things are looking great: Sane, intelligent, public-spirited employees. An actual policy for combating the pandemic, and a significant increase in vaccines shipped to the states. (I can attest to this. My long-sought vaccine appointment was postponed for lack of supply when the supplier was the Trump Administration, and went fine when the Biden Administration was at the helm.) Executive orders restoring the hopes and in some cases the lives of immigrants, travelers, Muslims, parents separated from their children, transgender members of our armed forces, those who want clean water, air and land. A President who wakes up in the morning and says, "How can I help people?", rather than "What's in it for me?", and "How can I screw my enemies?"

But the Republicans Are Not. There are two wings of the Republican Party, and both of them are in a very bad way. The Trump Cultists, who are a significant majority of what was once the party of Lincoln, believe in neither democracy nor reason. Believing that Biden's election was stolen is of the same intellectual caliber as believing that the Earth is flat. But the Flat Earthers are harmless. The Trump Cultists are told by their Fuhrer what to think, and they think it. Most merely consult fringe websites and talk to their friends. But too many of them traveled to Washington and tried to overthrow our government, encouraged and in some ways abetted by Trump, Hawley, Cruz, and New York's own Malliotakis and Stefanik.

But what of the Mitt Romneys and Susan Collines of the (once) GOP? These are not bad people. They see through the evils of the Trump Cult. You can have a rational, maybe even an intelligent, discussion with them on almost any subject. And yet they are peddling an economic policy that hardly anyone, even most Trump voters—unless instructed otherwise—agrees with. The vast majority of Americans want the stimulus checks to be higher, not lower. The vast majority of

Americans want to spend massive amounts of money on our infrastructure, rebuilding our nation and creating millions of good jobs in the process. Americans want to spend more money, not less, on health care, and preserving our environment. They want the rich to pay more, not less, in taxes. And they don't give a flying you-know-what about the deficit—which, by the way, decreased under Clinton and Obama and increased under Reagan, both Bushes, and Trump. President Biden should have all the meetings he wants with these nice people, and then do everything he can to make sure to do the opposite of almost everything they say.

On to the NYC Elections and Broadway Democrats Endorsement Meeting.

Even I, a long-time Democratic District Leader, am having trouble getting charged up about this. The scale of magnitude is much less, and most importantly, the gap between the best and worst (significant) candidate for any of the offices we'll be considering is much less than the gap between Biden and Trump. We'll at least muddle through no matter which of these candidates are elected, and many of them would do an outstanding job. Traditionally, I don't use this space to make endorsements before our vote, except for incumbents. Last year, I endorsed Nadler, Espaillat, Benjamin, Jackson and O'Donnell. This year, there is only one incumbent running, and I am honored to endorse **Jumaane Williams** for Public Advocate. Jumaane has used his office for progressive advocacy and to help everyday people. But though passionate and at times fiery, he is also one of the most contemplative and thoughtful people in public life. We need more like him.

I know who I'm voting for Mayor, Comptroller, and City Council. For District Attorney, I've narrowed it down to three of the eight candidates. Email me and I'll share my thoughts. But for one office, I have to use the bully pulpit of this newsletter to urge you to join me in endorsing **Mark Levine** for Manhattan Borough President. The recent work Mark has done as a national and local leader and educator in the fight against Covid-19 is just the latest example of the outstanding things he's done on the City Council. He sponsored and got enacted the bill assuring poor tenants the right to counsel in housing court. Parks, education, public

health—he's a leader in all of these issues. And another dimension of Mark not often seen in this country is his multilingualism. Fluent in Spanish and Hebrew, he can also carry on a conversation in French and several other languages, and speak a few words in many others. Introducing him at an event, his son said he doesn't want to get into a cab with his dad, because he's always attempting to chat up the cabbie in whatever language he or she speaks. In a borough as polyglot as Manhattan, having a Borough President who can speak *with*, not just *to*, most of its citizens is a rare asset. Please vote for Mark Levine, at the club meeting February 11 and in the Democratic Primary June 22nd.

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Composting: Yes? No? Maybe?

Please help the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (MSWAB) by filling out the survey linked below. We'd like to know if you compost your food scraps or if you'd like to, and what prevents you from doing so. And if you are totally grossed out by the idea of composting, let us know that too! We'd like to hear from a broad range of NYC residents. The survey takes only 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Survey is here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5JCpZbq-73hJz9arRtZMkziOhz3DKDC93fjV_OdwB7vYpA/viewform?usp=sf_link

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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](http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/sign-up-to-join-the-club.html)

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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Broadway Dems Book Club Meeting

Heather Ducharme

You're invited to join the Broadway Democrats Book Club meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm. The book we will be reading will be posted in our Facebook group, listed on the website under events, and sent through the listserv.

If you're interested, please email Heather Ducharme at heatherducharme15@gmail.com. The registration link will be sent through the listserv and will be posting at www.broadwaydemocrats.org.

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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.

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Stay in touch!

Visit us at
www.broadwaydemocrats.org

or

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

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2021 Endorsement Meetings

Eligibility to Vote in Club Elections

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 live in the 69th Assembly District, or an area that used to be in the 69th AD before redistricting.
- You can't have voted in any other club for the 2021 races.
- You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings.
- You must be up to date with your membership dues. Dues are \$25; senior dues are \$10. Dues can be paid by check mailed to Luis Román, c/o Broadway Democrats, 120 West 109th Street #3E, New York, NY 10025 **OR** paid through PayPal using your account or your credit card on our website. Click on <http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html>. When you pay your dues, please include your email address and telephone number.

Things have been confusing in our new virtual world. If you're unclear whether you've attended one of the previous nine monthly public meetings or any of the other rules, please feel free to contact Paula Diamond Román & Curtis Arluck at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)

Under the Club Constitution, voting for endorsement uses the method of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Each voting member casts only one ballot. A ballot consists of a list of the candidates known to be running, as well as "No Endorsement", for each office. If there are only two candidates running for an office, the candidate with a majority of votes (50% plus 1). receives the club's endorsement. If there are more than two candidates running for an office, the voting member shall indicate preferential ranking by numbers - 1 for first choice, 2 for second choice, 3 for third choice. No more than three choices are ranked,

although a member can choose to rank fewer than three candidates.

If a single candidate has received a majority of votes, that candidate has won the vote and the club endorsement. Otherwise, whichever candidate (other than "No Endorsement") has the fewest total votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed to the next ranked candidate down the list. In the case where no further ranked candidates are listed on a ballot, that vote is distributed to "No Endorsement." When a single candidate has a majority of votes, that candidate has won the vote and the club endorsement. If the process reduces to a single candidate, and that candidate doesn't have more votes than "No Endorsement," the club doesn't endorse in that race.

In addition, where the office represents only part of the Club's area, at least ten votes must be cast by members living in the district represented, and the candidate must win the majority of the vote among those members living in that district, as well as the majority of the vote of the full club

Balloting Procedures

This year, we'll be conducting the vote electronically. The voting link accesses an internet app called Election Runner which is anonymous. If a member is eligible to vote, the member will receive a link to cast their vote; we need to enter the member's name and email address into the app before hand which is why the member needs to contact us 24 hours in advance to pay their dues or if they didn't receive a link and they think they're eligible. The "polls" open at 7:00pm on February 11th and close at 7:00pm on February 13th. We'll be sending out further instructions closer to the vote. In the meantime, if you're unavailable to vote electronically, contact District Leaders Paula Diamond Román & Curtis Arluck at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org to make arrangements for a paper ballot.

Membership

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.

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!

Name: _____
(title, honorifics, and pronouns optional)

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interests: _____

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

The Broadway Democrats Newsletter – February 2021

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Paula Diamond Román
President: Heather Ducharme
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