
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Mary Peppito ♦

January General Meeting: CLUB ELECTIONS

Elections of Club Officers and Steering Committee Members

✧ *and* ✧

Asylum in the U.S.: Changes Ahead?

[Robyn Barnard](#), Senior Director of Refugee Advocacy at Human Rights First, in conversation with [David Isaacson](#), Steering Committee Member and immigration lawyer (additional speaker invited)

Ms Barnard oversees Human Rights First's congressional and administrative advocacy to protect the rights of refugees and ensure the United States commits to refugee protection, including access to asylum protections and resettlement, at home and abroad. She'll share her thoughts on the state of the asylum system today.

Club Elections at 7:00, followed by the Forum

Please join us on Zoom

Thursday, January 18 at 7:00pm

Register here: <https://bit.ly/2024janforum>

for more information: DistrictLeaders@BroadwayDemocrats.org

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Volume 49, Issue 1

January 2024

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Club Elections / Asylum in the U.S.

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President's Corner

Mary Peppito

We Need a Democratic Trifecta in 2024

We Democrats are in for the fight of our lives this election season. Not only is the presidential race on the ballot, but so are the majorities in the House and the Senate. All of them seem to be toss ups.

The House:

In the House, Democrats need a net gain of just five seats to reclaim the majority. If Tom Suozzi wins in the February 13th special election for the NY-3 seat vacated by Santos, the margin is down to four seats to win the House majority. It will be a hotly contested race between the former Democratic NY-3 seat-holder, Rep. Tom Suozzi against the novice Republican Nassau County legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip. The very centrist NY-3 district seat race is currently rated as a "toss-up."

New redistricting maps will help the Democrats in the House this go-round. Democrats have the advantage in three House seat races due to new maps, in Alabama!, Florida! and Louisiana! (Wow). Additionally, depending on newly drawn New York Congressional maps and voter sentiment, Democrats may gain two to 6 seats from Republicans in our state. Currently, New York counts 15 Democratic House members and 11 Republicans as their delegation.

On the downside, North Carolina has been a near total loss for Democrats. There are three Democratic seats that are projected as "safe republican" (NC-14, open; NC-6, Kathy Manning and NC-13-Wiley Nickel, and a Democratic seat that is now rated a toss-up, NC-1, Don Davis. Alaska (Petola(D)), Colorado (Boebert(R)) and

Pennsylvania (Scott Perry (R)) all have races to watch.

The Senate:

The Senate is projected to be an uphill battle for Democrats, given that Republicans are defending only 11 seats versus the 23 that Democrats must hold to maintain the ultra-slim majority that they currently hold. Of the 23 Senate seats that Democrats MUST retain, 3 of them are in red states: West Virginia, Ohio and Montana. While we may hold onto Sherrod Brown in Ohio and Jon Tester in Montana, there is no chance that we will regain the seat that Joe Manchin is vacating in the crimson state of West Virginia.

Please join us on the bus to NY-3 (see announcement on the next page) this Saturday at noon to get out the vote for the February 13th Special Election for Tom Suozzi to win back the NY-3 congressional seat vacated by the ousted and disgraced George Santos.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again: renew your membership in the Broadway Democrats!

Dues are \$25/year (seniors and students \$10/year), and help defray the costs of our forums and our monthly newsletter.

send a check to:

BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

P.O. BOX 1099 CATHEDRAL STATION
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10025

or renew online at

www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html

Join Assembly Member **Harvey Epstein**
and Congress Members
Adriano Espaillat, Dan Goldman & Jerry Nadler



MANHATTAN FOR SUOZZI BUS TO BAYSIDE QUEENS

IN COORDINATION WITH:

Democratic Club of El Barrio
Downtown Independent Democrats
Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club
Grand Street Democrats
Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats
Northern Manhattan Democrats For Change
Uptown Democratic Club
Village Independent Democrats
Senator Brian Kavanagh
Senator Liz Krueger
Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine

Assembly Member Alex Bores
Assembly Member Deborah Glick
Assembly Member Grace Lee
Assembly Member Manny De Los Santos
Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
Assembly Member Tony Simone
Assembly Member Al Taylor
Councilmember Erik Bottcher
Councilmember Christopher Marte
Councilmember Keith Powers
District Leader Vittoria Fariello
District Leader Tamika Mapp
District Leader Melissa Mark-Viverito

Sunday, January 14th
Board the bus @ Noon
RSVP for location & details



RSVP



tinyurl.com/manhattanforsuozzi
Email: manhattanforsuozzi@gmail.com

Board the bus @ noon on Sunday, January 14th
***** RSVP for location & details *****
Organized by Assembly Member Harvey Epstein.
Questions? Email manhattanforsuozzi@gmail.com.

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Last month was fairly quiet locally, so there's not too much to report. **President Biden** continues to do an excellent job, but it has to be admitted that he *looks* old, and while he can deliver good speeches on topics ranging from how Democrats are improving the economy to Trump and the Republicans' assaults on our democracy, he seems too scripted, stiff and (perhaps needlessly) protected to engage in the kind of dialogue with the press and the voters that we need from our presidential candidate when so much is at stake.

Governor Hochul has emerged somewhat from the right-of-center cocoon that she inhabited for most of 2023. Instead of nominating without consulting with legislative leaders and the people who elected her overly conservative judges and pushing the construction of luxury office towers near Penn Station, she's talking more about Democratic issues like affordable housing and cheaper prescription drugs and insulin. Usually someone who is pleasant and easy to work with (in general, not just in contrast to her predecessor), she needs to continue taking steps to listen more to people like Andrea Stewart Cousins and less to people like developers.

Mayor Adams continues to be a disaster. Corrupt or at least highly tolerant of the corruption surrounding him, hostile to criticism, inattentive to the details of governing, he's utterly failed to meet even the minimal level of expectations we had for him. I have partial sympathy for the Mayor on only one issue, the migrant crisis. Unlike crime, where the right wingers' hysteria is manufactured and conservatives' "solutions" are always worse, especially with regard to guns, there is no ready "progressive" solution to the crisis at our borders and in New York and other cities which are about the only places interested in helping out people who want to work and have few opportunities in the places they are fleeing from. But no matter how noble and progressive we want to be, we simply can't accommodate everyone who wants to come here. There isn't the money, there isn't the space, there aren't enough jobs.

And there are two other hard truths we have to accept. First, that "asylum" is a concept that not only dwarfs the ability of countries and cities to handle all the asylum seekers, but also at times negatively impacts on the immigrants who are already here, and working, and who have been trying for years to get legitimized. That they cannot be, and that the immigration quotas are far too low, is entirely the

fault of the Republicans and other forces of darkness. But that doesn't mean that millions of people who are just recently here or are not yet here at all should be able in the name of "asylum" to jump the queue in front of those who have been here for so long.

Second, the vast influx of asylum seekers makes rational planning even by competent and compassionate agencies and governments all but impossible. Progressives fight for budgets that maintain and increase services. Usually, they don't get everything they want, but they at least hold the line. Then, hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers appear, the budgets are busted, chaos ensues. A stark example of this right in our community was when Senator Cordell Cleare was told that youth services in Riverbank Park, and much of the athletic, social and cultural activities of the park itself, were to be ended to make way to shelter the migrants. Senator Cleare put a stop to this horrible idea. But catastrophes like this are being enacted all over the city.

There are many who would have done a better job managing this crisis than Mayor Adams. But no one can do a good job with it: there are just too many people seeking to come here. This is a hard, sad truth that has to be acknowledged, and dealt with. I look forward to our forum on the topic!

RL

Bulletin: Due to the complications of the impending Congressional redistricting, the NY Primary may be delayed from June 25 to August 13, and all petitioning, etc. dates associated with this primary will also be pushed back. Stay tuned.

RL

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.

RL

Club Elections

Please join us to elect club officers and twelve Steering Committee members. Nominees are listed below, and additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Nominees

The following persons have been nominated as Broadway Democrats officers and Steering Committee members for 2023:

President: Mary Peppito

Vice President: Laura Danford Mandel

Recording Secretary: Open

Corresponding Secretary: Luis Román

Treasurer: Dan Zweig

Steering Committee (vote for 12):

Pat Almonrode

Gretchen Borges

Amy Brundage

Shelby Drescher

Liam Elkind

Mercedes Estrada

Peter Flom

David Isaacson

Susan Mehlman

Angela Rooks

Richard Siegel

Open

If you are interested in running for Recording Secretary or for the Steering Committee position, contact DistrictLeaders@BroadwayDemocrats.org.

To vote in Club Elections you must have attended at least one of the previous nine meetings and you must be current on your dues (seniors and students \$10; \$25 all others). Vote in person or by proxy.

You can now pay your dues online. Details on how to do this are below. Also keep in mind:

- The January 18 meeting is your **last chance** to establish eligibility to vote in the all-important February endorsement meeting. If you have not attended at least one of the previous nine club meetings, you won't be eligible to vote for officers **or** at the February endorsement meeting.
- At both meetings, you'll be able to participate by phone, even if you can't use the Zoom video features.

We look forward to seeing you on January 18 and in February!

Eligibility to Vote in Club Elections

To vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention delegates, 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 elections in any other club in this calendar year;
- You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings; and
- You must be current with your dues.

Dues are \$25 (\$10 for students and seniors), and may be paid by check mailed to Broadway Democrats, P.O. Box 1099, New York, NY 10025 **or** www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html, using PayPal or a card. When you pay your dues, please include your email address and telephone number. If you have questions about your eligibility or your dues status, please contact District Leaders Paula Diamond Román and Curtis Arluck at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org

We'll be conducting the vote electronically, with instructions at the meeting. If you won't be able to vote electronically, contact Paula or Curtis at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org to make arrangements for a paper ballot.



Stay in touch!

visit us at

<http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org>

or

join us on Facebook at

facebook.com/groups/BroadwayDemocrats/



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

January 2024

FIRST
CLASS

P.O. Box 1099
Cathedral Station
New York, NY 10025

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell
District Leaders:
 Curtis Arluck,
 Paula Diamond Román
President: Mary Peppito
Newsletter Editor: Pat Almonrode

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED