THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

GENERAL MEETING:

Election of Club Officers & Steering Committee

and

Endorsement of Judicial Convention Delegates Alternates

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026

Bank Street College, 610 West 112th Street

(b/w Broadway and Riverside Drive)

and on Zoom

6:45pm: Sign-in
7:00pm: Club Elections

Pre-register at bit.ly/2026_JanForum, or use this QR code:

please pre-register online whether attending in person or via Zoom

For more info email bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com

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Volume 51, Issue 1 January 2026

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

For the Record and For Future Trends: 2025 Area (69th Part C) Election Results

Mayor

Mamdani (D-WFP)..... 12,132 (71%)
Cuomo (Ind.) 4,370 (26%)
Sliwa (R)..... 366 (2%)
Others 180 (1%)

Public Advocate

Williams (D-WFP)..... 89%
Duran (R-C)..... 9%
Others 2%

Comptroller

Levine (D)..... 91%
Kefalos (R-C)..... 7%
Others 2%

Borough President

Hoylman-Sigal (D-WFP)..... 91%
Adams (R) 7%
Others 2%

District Attorney

Bragg (D-WFP)..... 86%
Maron (R-C) 9%
Florence (Ind.)..... 5%

City Council

Abreu (D-WFP)..... 88%
Williams (R)..... 7%
Okporo (Ind.) 5%

What Do These Numbers Mean?

(1) Turnout here and in most places was extremely high. Citywide, there was the highest number and Democratic candidate votes since 1965. Here, it was the highest non-Presidential election vote in the Club's history. In Morningside Heights above 110th St. (not counting Grant Houses where the vote was average), the vote came within 1% of the Presidential vote last year; exceeded it in EDs 7, 8, 9 and 10; and came within a handful of votes of exceeding it in EDs 5 and 14. Not surprisingly, these six EDs were Mamdani's best EDs not only in our area, but in the entire 69th AD.

(2) Mamdani was primarily responsible for this high turnout, mainly by pulling out thousands of new votes himself, but also by generating intense opposition in some quarters. Even in his best and highest voting Morningside Heights EDs, Mamdani trailed the rest of the Democratic ticket by more than 10%.

(3) All these numbers are great news for the Democrats in the rest of NY State and nationally. While the Mamdani percentages were down even in our area, the other races were a complete Democratic rout, with no Republican candidate exceeding 9% of the vote here. And while Mark Levine and Brad Hoylman-Sigal faced no meaningful Republican opposition, incumbent DA Alvin Bragg had two high spending, Trump-spouting opponents: Republican Maud Maron and Independent Diana Florence. Bragg won by a massive margin here, and even on the Upper East Side, which regrettably went for Cuomo two-to-one, Bragg won by almost the same margin. Even if they were somewhat nervous about Mamdani, voters throughout the City showed by overwhelming margins that they don't want Trump, his party, or his policies. I am *very* optimistic about our chances in this year's NY and nationwide elections.

The Mamdani Victory:
What Does It Mean?

The last few months were quite a roller coaster of emotions, even for me, a Lander voter in June, but a strong Mamdani partisan in November. I have never seen such an impressive, almost entirely positive, grass roots campaign as the one Zohran Mamdani ran. I did not mind that he was so young—I was a kid then, but I still remember John Lindsay's oh-so-true "He's fresh and everyone else is tired" slogan. I didn't care that some of his proposals were too radical and/or not completely achievable: what

politician ever gets everything they want? Zohran will make rents for nearly two million tenants significantly lower than they would have been under Cuomo, Adams or Sliwa. He will provide significant government support to make early childhood costs much less expensive. He is already appointing outstanding progressives and seasoned and accomplished people to almost every position. He may even get us some free bus routes. All of these are very good things.

While I firmly reject the notion that Mamdani is antisemitic, and condemn those who are all but silent about the right-wing antisemitism that pervades the MAGA Republicans while trying to redefine being anti-Israel or even anti-Netanyahu as being antisemitic, I recognize that some of Mamdani's remarks, especially on the intifada and on the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state, have caused some very good people very great pain. Let us not minimize this. But we should also recognize the pain of those who lost a child or other loved one in Gaza, or lost their homes on the West Bank to the *shonde* that is the settler movement. Let us continue to criticize Mayor Mamdani when we think he's wrong, and continue working with him to build a better New York City, based on principles we mostly hold dear.

President's Corner:

Mary Peppito

Take back our democracy!
We can take back the House & Senate in 2026

As I write this article on January 5th, 2026, Republicans are down another vote in the House with the resignation *today* of bombastic Marjorie Taylor Greene. With her departure, the House will stand at 219 Republicans and 213 Democrats, with three seats vacant. As of now, the House Republicans will only be able to lose two Republicans on any party-line vote — needing near-unanimous support to advance their authoritarian Trumpian legislation. And Democratic numbers will continue to grow in the House after a Texas special election at the end of this month, in which two Democrats are running.

In addition, a special election for the New Jersey seat held by former Democratic Rep. Mikie Sherrill, will also be held prior to the 2026 midterms that the Democrats are likely to win. So despite the Trump-ordered gerrymandering of Texas, and other states following suit, given the history of the party in presidential power losing seats and the current polling showing plummeting numbers for Trump and Republicans on a general ballot, there is a lot to feel optimistic about as we look to put an end to Congress's capitulation to the authoritarian takeover of our country by Trump and his cronies on the Supreme Court.

But, for 2026, the battlefield appears to be smaller than ever before. Thanks to partisan gerrymandering, there are only 14 Republican-held toss-up seats, so a 2018-like blue wave of 40+ seats is not possible.

However, according to The Hill, "Recent polling from Quinnipiac University shows that 47 percent of voters say they want the Democratic Party to win control of the House, whereas only 43 percent say the same for the Republican Party. Even more optimistically, AtlasIntel found that 54 percent of Americans say they are more likely to vote for the Democratic candidate in their district than the Republican (38 percent)."

For example, despite it being a deep-red district, "Democrats are hopeful about Tennessee's 5th District — which Trump won by 18 points last year — because the most recent candidate to enter the race, Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder, flipped a city that had been red for 12 years and was one of the top Democratic House candidate fundraisers last quarter."

Closer to home, we are working to flip New York's 17th District based in Westchester, Rockland County, and Hudson Valley where Rep. Mike Lawler a reliable Trump supporter who tries to portray himself as a moderate, represents a district former Vice President Kamala Harris won in 2024.

Other local races that we will be focusing on are swing districts in Long Island that we must hold, such as congressional district 3 covering a section of Queens and Nassau Counties, where Tom Suozzi (D) won a special election in 2023 when George Santos stepped down. Suozzi then won the general to regain his seat in 2024. Also in our sights to retain is congressional district 4 in Nassau County where Laura Gillen won back the seat from a Trump lackey in 2024.

While we have had some recent wins as Democrats and for democracy, it is crucial that we not lose momentum. We must continue to engage voters where they are – on affordability and livability issues and make sure they know that we are the party that actually cares about those issues and solving problems.

Let's get fired up and get out there to knock on doors, call neighbors and strangers and write letters and postcards. Democracy depends on us.

GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY JAN. 15:
Election of Club Officers & Steering Committee
Endorsements of Judicial Convention Delegates and Alternates

At our General Meeting we'll be electing Club Officers and Steering Committee members for 2026, and endorsing delegates and alternates to the 2026 Judicial Convention.

The meeting will be **hybrid**: in-person at Bank Street College, 610 West 112th Street (b/w Broadway and Riverside Drive) ***and*** online. **Please pre-register at bit.ly/2026_JanForum, whether attending in-person or online**. Guests should also pre-register.

The following persons have been nominated for these positions (nominations from the floor will also be accepted):

Officers

President: Mary Peppito
Vice President: Laura Danford Mandel
Recording Secretary: Jacob Kimbarow
Corresponding Secretary: Luis Román
Treasurer: Dan Zweig

Steering Committee (vote for 12):

Pat Almonrode
Amy Brundage
Shelby Drescher
Liam Elkind
Mercedes Estrada
David Isaacson
Theo Kronby
Susan Mehlman
Alice Phan
Barbara Reiser
Angela Rooks
Barbara Sorkin

Judicial Convention Delegates
(vote for 6)

Catharine Grad
Noah Kaufman
Laura Danford Mandel
Mary Peppito
Amy Porter
Luis Román

Judicial Convention Alternates
(vote for 5)

Pat Almonrode
Amy Brundage
Mercedes Estrada
Jacob Kimbarow
Zoila Marte

To vote in a club election or endorsement, 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.

Annual 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** at 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. **You may also pay your dues at the door.**

Questions about your eligibility or your dues status? Please contact District Leaders Paula Diamond Román and Curtis Arluck at bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com.

Please attend this important meeting if at all possible! If unable to attend, you may give your proxy (instructed or discretionary) **in writing** (email is fine) to another Club member to cast your votes. **No person may carry more than one proxy.**

THIS SUNDAY, JAN. 11:
NO WARS, NO KINGS,
NO BLOOD FOR OIL!

We condemn the invasion of Venezuela, and we demand our leaders in Congress fulfill their duty to stop this regime's criminal attacks here and abroad.

The Trump administration has invaded Venezuela, bombing families and communities in a ruthless bid to seize control of the country for oil corporations that poison our land, air, and water. Trump's promises to end "forever wars" have been shattered and replaced by yet another violent intervention that sacrifices lives for profit.

From DC and Chicago to Caracas and beyond, Trump is trampling our freedoms in a war to entrench rule by bullies for billionaires. We stand together against an administration that consistently places profit over human life and continues to violate the rule of law, both domestically and internationally.

THIS SUNDAY 1:00pm

Gather at Grand Army Plaza, Manhattan (Fifth Ave. @ 60th St.)

March to Sen. Schumer's Office (Third Ave. @ 49th St.)

organized by DSA, 50501, Indivisible, Rise and Resist, and others!

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
January 2026

FIRST CLASS

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

Assemblymember: Micah Lasher
District Leaders:
Curtis Arluck,
Paula Diamond Román
President: Mary Peppito
Newsletter Editor: Pat Almonrode

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED