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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Noah Kaufman ◆

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## November General Meeting

# Defending Affordable Housing in New York: the future of the NYC Housing Authority

*The New York City Housing Authority  
provides stable housing for more than 500,000  
neighbors (this is a major metropolitan area on its own.)*

*However, Federal and State funding for these properties  
is lacking, and the waiting list is in the tens of thousands.  
As maintenance falters, privateers look at the public's  
property with hungry eyes.*

*Join us for a look at the past, present and future of our  
public housing. Join us as we hear why we must,  
and how we can, keep housing affordable  
for New Yorkers.*

**Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019**

7:45 p.m. registration

Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. sharp!

**Bank Street College**

610 W. 112<sup>th</sup> Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive)

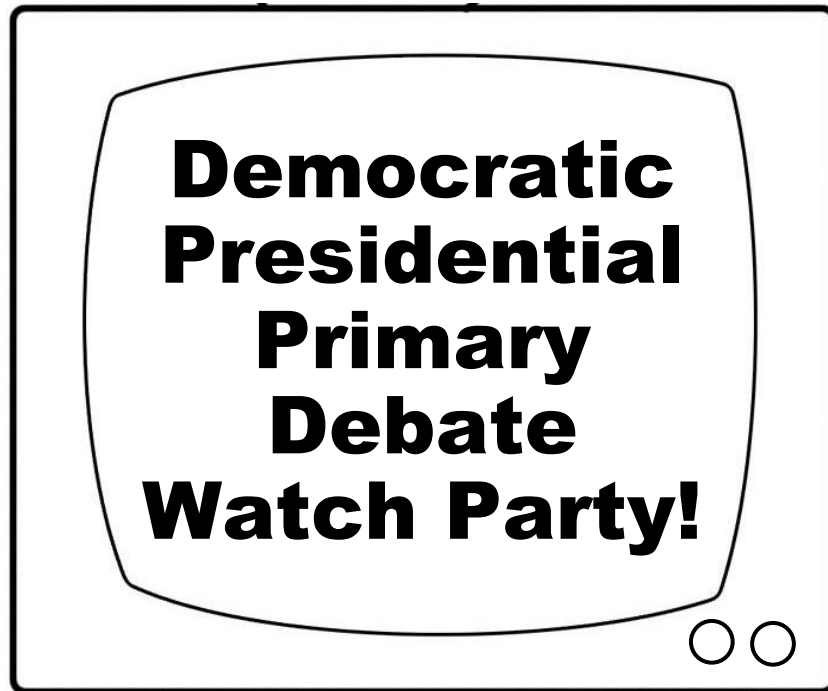
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## Wednesday, November 20

Join **Broadway Democrats** and  
**Three Parks Independent Democrats**  
to watch the fifth Democratic Presidential Primary Debate!

Debate starts at **8:00 pm**,  
but come at **7:30 pm** to meet and greet

### **e's BAR**

**2888 Broadway (b/w 112 and 113)**

RSVP here: [tinyurl.com/Nov-20-debate-watch](http://tinyurl.com/Nov-20-debate-watch)

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Volume 44, Issue 8

November 2019

## President's Column

Noah Kaufman

Dear Broadway Democrats,

I hope you are well. I see the ads on the internet stands on the avenue referencing “self-care” for New Yorkers. I don’t know when self-care became a “meme” but I am in favor: “healthy in mind and healthy in body” as my grandfather used to say. Clearly when we are implementing self-care, our stronger selves will be able to extend that care to others. From the people closest to us, and to our wider circles, we do better when we are fit and able.

The safety sheet on the airplane specifically reminds passengers to “put your oxygen mask on first before assisting others” This is good advice for all Broadway Democrats. (*This message is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any condition other than malaise or apathy brought on by the 24-hour news cycle and the frustrations associated with the Trump presidency.*)

Please join us at our General Meeting (Nov. 14, 2019) at Bank Street College (610 W. 112th Street). Our forum will focus on the past, present and future of the affordable housing that we as a city provide. With some 172,000 apartments, NYCHA provides stable housing for more than 500,000 neighbors – and even so, the waiting list for an apartment is in the tens of thousands. We need to protect, preserve, and enhance our NYCHA apartments.

By federal law, rent for a NYCHA apartment is one-third of the household income. In our city, the median annual household income is \$57,000. But the private market is able to charge and receive higher rents in every borough. This is one reason that the public sector is so important. Our Housing Authority provides homes for neighbors, for working families, for people on fixed incomes, and NYCHA needs our support.

Speaking of “neighbors” Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Trump announced they have moved their abode from New York City to the great state of Florida. *Adios, sayonara, ciao, and scat!* We New Yorkers have known for many years that Trump is a spoiled, racist, misogynistic, liar and bully. As President he has continued these traits. We Democrats continue

to support the Constitution of the United States of America, and to protect our Republic from those who would take our liberty and our security and who put themselves above the law. We oppose self-dealers – we don’t need neighbors who can’t keep their promises, who can’t keep from calling names, or who look admiringly on fascists and tyrannical dictators.

And finally, speaking of democracy and Democrats, I will be completing my term as president of our Club. Elections for our Club officers take place at our January 2020 meeting. I thank you all for your contributions big and small, from sending postcards to our electeds, to gathering petitions and staffing the Broadway Democrats table, to sharing the lobby cards and flyers to GOTV, to attending Club meetings. I want to thank our Steering Committee for their hard work and constant effort to keep the Club moving forward and supporting the people of the 69th Assembly District Part C and the efforts to keep our neighborhoods as good places to live, work, study, and visit. It’s a lot of work, and it’s not done – We have so much more to do.

I have posted the following words of Bobby Kennedy before; here they are again:

It is from numberless diverse acts of courage such as these that the belief that human history is thus shaped. Each time a man [a person] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he [they] sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Or, as Dr. Cornell West put it succinctly “Let your telephone be smart – I want you to be wise and courageous!”

Let us all practice good self-care so we can be fit, so we can be able to stand up and to be wise and courageous. Excelsior!

*The author is an officer and delegate of Local 375 CSTG, AFSCME, a Delegate to District Council 37 AFSCME, and outgoing President of the Broadway Democrats.*

## Our Ongoing Debate Watch Parties

### Amy Porter

It was great to see and meet with so many of you at our October's Debate Watch Party!

This last debate was not just one of the longest debates with the most number of candidates yet, but one where many of the substantive differences between the candidates became clearer. Most of the other candidates attacked Elizabeth Warren on her health care policies, apparently viewing her as the front runner. In fact, the winner of Common Cause's straw poll at our own Debate Watch party was Elizabeth Warren by 60%. This was not a big surprise because a large number of folks who are working on Warren's campaign came to our event. Bernie Sanders came in second in our straw poll. There was a three-way tie between Amy Klobuchar, Cory Booker, and Peter Buttigieg. Meanwhile, since the debate, and according to the last New York Times poll, Warren has become the front runner.

The field is starting to narrow, as probably fewer candidates will now qualify for this next debate and Beta O'Rourke has dropped out of the race. Now as Americans watch the debates, we are starting to really evaluate and reflect on what kind of candidate we want. We are asking, what are the real differences between the candidates? Do we want a radical progressive candidate, like Sanders or Warren, or a more moderate one, like Biden, Klobuchar or Buttigieg? How do we feel about the health care policies of the different candidates? Who do we believe is the best candidate to beat Trump? Do we choose the candidate we like the best or the one who is the most "electable"?

As I walked over to our last watch party at Amity Hall and was handing out flyers for our event, I spoke with a young man who told me that his favorite candidate was Pete Buttigieg. "But he doesn't stand a chance," the man said. I told him it was way too early to rule out his favorite candidate or any of the other candidates who are ranking low in the polls. And since that last debate, and according to a recent New York Times poll, Pete Buttigieg has risen to third place and has now overtaken Joe Biden. Another thing to remember about polls is that they do not accurately predict who will win. There are sure to be surprises in the upcoming primaries. A lot can happen and a lot can change quickly.

So stay tuned and come watch with us again! Please come a half hour early before the debate starts so that we have a chance to meet and speak. I really enjoy having that time with you. So many of you have expressed appreciation for having a place

to come together to watch the debates. We hope to continue joining with Three Parks to make this happen. We would also like to try holding these events at different venues in the neighborhood. If you know of other places or have any suggestions, please email me at [aporter.bwaydem@gmail.com](mailto:aporter.bwaydem@gmail.com)

Finally, a special thanks to Daniel Marks Cohen, our great State Committeeman, who knows how to make things happen! Thanks to the Broadway Democrats Steering Committee, our District Leaders, Curtis Arluck and Paula Diamond Roman, our Newsletter Editors and Public Relations Team, Pat Almonrode, Gretchen Borges, Katie Hanner, Joe Nunley and Dan Zweig for your help and support. Thank you to Three Parks Independent Democrats.

The Washington Post will be hosting the Fifth Democratic Debate in Atlanta. As of this writing, the following nine candidates have qualified to participate: Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg, Tom Steyer, Andrew Yang, Cory Booker, and Amy Klobuchar

Other candidates still have time to qualify by November 13.

*The author is the outgoing Vice President of the Broadway Democrats, a coach, and a mediator.*

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**Come join the Broadway Democrats and Three Parks Independent Democrats for our Debate Watch Party for the November Democratic Presidential Candidate Debate!**

When: November 20, 2019, 7:30 pm (Debate starts at 8:00 pm)

Where: e's Bar Morningside Heights, 2888 Broadway (112/113<sup>th</sup>)

**Admission to this event is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

Please RSVP to the link below so we know how many people to expect. See you on the 20th!

[tinyurl.com/Nov-20-debate-watch](https://tinyurl.com/Nov-20-debate-watch)

*AP*

We want to hear what *you* have to say! Email submissions to the editor (in MS Word, please) at [palmonrode@gmail.com](mailto:palmonrode@gmail.com).

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



## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### *Musings on Medicare for All*

Much of the current debate on Medicare for All (M4A) is self-serving and unfair. Any Democratic plan for health insurance is better than any Republican plan for health insurance: all Democratic plans would cover vastly more people, improve the health of vastly more people, and cost vastly more people vastly less money. All Democratic presidential candidates support making Medicare available to some people under 65; all the major ones support making it available to people of all ages. The Republicans, on the other hand, want to destroy Medicare even for those over 65, and if they had both the Presidency and sufficient majorities in Congress they would immediately do so.

Nevertheless, every Democratic debate starts with a contentious and not very edifying discussion of Medicare for All. The very title is misleading: overwhelming majorities of voters support Medicare for All if it means Medicare is an *option* for all, but significant majorities oppose it is *mandated* for all: which plan is it? Moderate Democrats often sound like Reagan Republicans in denouncing mandatory Medicare for All because it is “not paid for”, while few of their own plans, and no Republican plans, are “paid for.” It often seems that plans that help the most people must be “paid for,” while those that help only or mainly the most affluent are seldom subjected to this requirement. But many extreme M4A proponents have their own dogmas: they counter every criticism of their plans, no matter how specific, with generalized denunciations of the insurance and drug companies, as if this were a scimitar that could solve all problems and drive all legitimate questions away.

So what should we Democrats do about all this?

First, stick together: remember, any of our plans are better than any their plans. Emphasize the ties that bind us rather than the ties that divide us.

Second, stop questioning the other side's motives. “Moderates” who believe that forced Medicare for All is currently a bridge too far are not neoliberal corporate sellouts. “Radicals” who insist that the M4A way is the best way are not crazies who will inevitably drag the Democratic Party down to defeat. What they are advocating is a lot closer to what most European countries have, at much cheaper cost, than what the U.S. currently has. Each side should listen to and respect each other's viewpoints.

Third, at some point, probably by the time of the Democratic convention, we as a party are going to have to decide on where we come down on this. Our decision will have to be a very pragmatic one. Right now, optional Medicare for All commands much more support than forced Medicare for All. But maybe we can have both, the Optional as the current goal, the Mandatory as the aspirational one. I myself, when given the choice last year, opted for Medicare over my company's plan: it cost half as much, and its coverage was just as good. If a government-supported Medicare system really is cheaper and better than a private system—as economists like Paul Krugman believe it probably is—shouldn't we give people the opportunity to reach that conclusion for themselves, rather than forcing it on them?

*The author is a tax professional and has been the Democratic Male District Leader for the 69th Assembly District for the past 40 years.*



### 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

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