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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◇ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◇ President: Amy Porter ◇

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Volume 45, Issue 12

December  
2020

## 2021 Endorsement Meetings, Part I

### **Invited Speakers**

#### ***Public Advocate***

Anthony Herbert  
Gwen Goodwin  
Jumaane Williams  
Theo Chino

#### ***Comptroller***

Brad Lander  
Brian Benjamin  
David Weprin  
Kevin Parker

#### ***City Council District 06***

Gale Brewer  
Jeffrey Omura  
Sara Lind  
Seth Rosen  
Zack Weiner

## Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

We've elected a president. Now it's time to turn our attention to more local races. Candidates will introduce themselves for three minutes, then, answer questions submitted to the moderator through Zoom. If you can't submit questions on Zoom or if you have any other questions, contact District Leaders Paula Diamond Román & Curtis Arluck at [districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org](mailto:districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org)

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To register, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdumsqj0rGNfQgO-J55R-xFoHWRj7FjSi>

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# A Holiday Message from the President

Amy Porter

As the holidays approach, Covid cases are rising every day. I encourage you to continue to wear your masks in public, wash your hands often, and keep social distance. Take advantage of the free testing sites in our neighborhood - <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you> Let us limit the number of people we gather with over the holidays so that we can be sure to celebrate again next year with those we love.

While we hunker down inside our apartments for a difficult and dark winter during this pandemic, we know that there is light at the end. The vaccines are coming. Because of the hard campaign work you all have done, with our highly qualified president-elect and incoming administration, better times for America are coming. Let us continue our work together in ensuring that Democrats are elected in Georgia.

Stay safe, have a peaceful holiday season and a happy New Year.

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## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

### Election Wrap-up: Much to Be Thankful For, Much to Be Done

The main goal of that we have been working for for four years has been accomplished. Donald Trump has been defeated, and while he will not go with a shred of dignity or honesty, and he and his minions are trying as hard as they can to destroy our democratic institutions, he will be gone from the White House on January 20. But the sheer venom and desire to overthrow democratic rule of he and a majority of his supporters is very worrisome. It will be a very difficult four years, and that's even before we get to the problems of the pandemic, the

economy, the environment and racial discrimination that his sordid Presidency has caused or exacerbated.

I feel better about how things look in our community. Our people came through, as they always do, and our elections ran very smoothly, without even a hint of scandal or controversy. Of course the Early Voting lines were too long at West Side High. But this was the first time Early Voting had ever been tried on such a large scale in New York City. Just two fixes, increasing the number of Early Voting poll sites, and enabling people to vote at any EV site in their county, will mostly solve this problem. Of course there will always be long-ish Early Voting lines the first couple of days in any Presidential election: this is a rite of democracy! But after that, there shouldn't be, as there weren't, for the first time ever, on Election Day itself. Several hundred people helped out in Broadway Democrats' letter and postcard writing, phone and text banking, and finally, in October, canvassing operations. Several million people helped out across the country in similar efforts. And look at the results!: victory for the Biden/Harris ticket, wins in five of the six closest states, a chance to take control of the U.S. Senate, getting veto-proof majorities in the NY State Senate and Assembly. (The House results, I know, were disappointing.) I'm not ready to predict that we will take back the U.S. Senate, but here is a prediction: Rev. Raphael Warnock will win! He's a great candidate: smart, sunny, good with people. Like his predecessor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Martin Luther King, he uses religion as it should be used, to empower and uplift and improve people's lives, rather than to rage and repress and destroy. Please do all that you can, through Broadway Democrats Go Blue Campaign and on your own, to elect Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in the January 5<sup>th</sup> Georgia special election.

Attached are the ED results for our district in the last two Presidential elections.

Presidential Vote by ED, 69th AD Part C, 2020 vs. 2016

ED	2020					Total Vote	2016					
	Biden D-W	Trump R-C	Others	Biden %	Trump %		Total Vote	Clinton D-W	Trump R-C	Others	Clinton %	Trump%
8	160	12	2	92.0%	6.9%	174	193	182	8	3	94.3%	4.1%
72	441	17	7	94.8%	3.7%	465	892	802	53	37	89.9%	5.9%
110	340	32	4	90.4%	8.5%	376	ED 110 Created Out of ED 72					
73	700	64	15	89.9%	8.2%	779	776	696	47	33	89.7%	6.1%
74	470	73	7	85.5%	13.3%	550	564	511	36	17	90.6%	6.4%
75	576	46	2	92.3%	7.4%	624	612	568	28	16	92.8%	4.6%
76	489	51	6	89.6%	9.3%	546	576	534	30	12	92.7%	5.2%
77	577	54	9	90.2%	8.4%	640	658	600	33	25	91.2%	5.0%
78	529	37	9	92.0%	6.4%	575	601	551	25	25	91.7%	4.2%
79	462	38	6	91.3%	7.5%	506	509	465	28	16	91.4%	5.5%
80	358	32	4	90.9%	8.1%	394	574	517	31	26	90.1%	5.4%
83	552	44	6	91.7%	7.3%	602	797	734	39	24	92.1%	4.9%
109	312	38	3	88.4%	10.8%	353	ED 109 Created Out of EDs 80 and 83					
81	623	81	7	87.6%	11.4%	711	696	628	46	22	90.2%	6.6%
82	377	23	5	93.1%	5.7%	405	383	350	17	16	91.4%	4.4%
84	500	47	9	89.9%	8.5%	556	560	512	28	20	91.4%	5.0%
85	390	18	5	94.4%	4.4%	413	370	344	10	16	93.0%	2.7%
86	703	44	9	93.0%	5.8%	756	778	716	44	18	92.0%	5.7%
87	573	33	12	92.7%	5.3%	618	637	565	42	30	88.7%	6.6%
88	124	7	2	93.2%	5.3%	133	144	132	2	10	91.7%	1.4%
89	444	53	3	88.8%	10.6%	500	492	480	11	1	97.6%	2.2%
90	716	62	17	90.1%	7.8%	795	775	681	45	49	87.9%	5.8%
91	429	30	6	92.3%	6.5%	465	582	530	26	26	91.1%	4.5%
92	589	26	11	94.1%	4.2%	626	651	596	24	31	91.6%	3.7%
93	763	31	18	94.0%	3.8%	812	847	768	35	44	90.7%	4.1%
94	351	14	4	95.1%	3.8%	369	550	505	14	31	91.8%	2.5%
95	652	32	4	94.8%	4.7%	688	773	708	40	25	91.6%	5.2%
96	36	0	1	97.3%	0.0%	37	48	46	0	2	95.8%	0.0%
97	391	17	8	94.0%	4.1%	416	574	535	14	25	93.2%	2.4%
98	610	40	10	92.4%	6.1%	660	635	567	27	41	89.3%	4.3%
99	684	50	13	91.6%	6.7%	747	703	623	46	34	88.6%	6.5%
100	433	31	2	92.9%	6.7%	466	839	785	35	19	93.6%	4.2%
101	407	44	5	89.3%	9.6%	456	708	669	24	15	94.5%	3.4%
108	566	37	2	93.6%	6.1%	605	ED 108 Created Out of EDs 100 and 101					
102	461	54	1	89.3%	10.5%	516	522	492	20	10	94.3%	3.8%
Total	16,788	1,312	234	91.6%	7.2%	18,334	19,019	17,392	908	719	91.4%	4.8%

## District Leader's Report

### Paula Diamond Román

We have gone from having no vaccine in sight to three different options of possible vaccines. This has re-opened the argument over whether you would take the vaccine that was highlighted during the presidential debates. The most recent discussion on Facebook usually ends with the response, "I'll take the vaccine as soon as Dr. Fauci says it's okay." However, not everyone feels the same way.

"I got mixed feelings on this vaccine. On the one hand, I'm Black, so naturally I don't trust it. But, on the other hand, I'm on a White TV show, so I might actually get the real one."

Michael Che, Weekend Update, SNL

Obviously, this is meant as humor, but it is also a window into the relationship between the Black community and the medical establishment. There's a long history of suspicion in the Black community towards vaccines and other medical treatments. According to a new national survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in November, Blacks report being far less likely to get the vaccine (42%) than Whites (61%), or Hispanics (63%), or English-speaking Asians (83%). It's too easy to lump this in with the general ignorance of the anti-vaxxers but it is way more complicated, especially since Covid-19 has had a disproportionate impact on the Black community.

I always thought everyone knew the history of this relationship until I was recently discussing it with a long-time friend who thought Tuskegee only referred to the famous Black airmen and had never heard of Henrietta Lacks. For those of you for whom this is an old hat, feel free to skip the rest of the article.

**The "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male."** In 1932, the U.S. Public Health Service, working with the Tuskegee Institute, a historically Black college in Alabama, started the "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro

Unlike most of the rest of the county, we did have a small decline in turnout. This came almost entirely from the EDs encompassing or adjacent to the Columbia campus (91, 93-97), where many people lost their housing and didn't physically return. Elsewhere the turnout was flat, or up in a few places such as Morningside Gardens and Central Park West/Frederick Douglass Blvd. (EDs 75, 81, 82, 99.) Joe Biden got a slightly higher percentage than Hillary Clinton, 91.6 to 91.4, though this is largely because the third party vote declined significantly, from 3.8% to 1.2%. I am sorry to report that Trump's percentage increased, from 4.8 to 7.2, almost entirely from a major increase in the Latinx vote, especially in Manhattan Valley and Grant Houses. We have a lot of work to do here. But remember, the vast majority of Latinx and all our voters went Democratic, and 7% is still an extremely low percentage. If only the rest of the country was so enlightened!

Male.” The purpose was well-meaning, to provide data to support the creation of treatment programs for Blacks. However, in the absence of Institutional Review Boards or even the basic beginnings of medical ethics, six hundred Black men were enrolled in the study without informed consent and were never given proper, adequate treatment.

The participants consisted of 399 men with latent syphilis and 201 without. Participants were poor, uneducated sharecroppers who the researchers justified would never have received treatment anyway. The participants were provided with free medical exams, free meals, and burial insurance. They were told they were being treated for “bad blood,” a general term including problems from fatigue to syphilis. Placebos, ineffective methods, and diagnostic procedures were administered as treatment; no one was offered penicillin even when it became the standard treatment for syphilis in 1947. Family members and sexual partners were infected by the participants with latent syphilis that might have been treated with penicillin.

The study was originally promoted as a six-month study but lasted for forty years until a whistleblower reported them and the Associated Press ran a story. Today, the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care is part of Tuskegee University and there is a whole ream of ethical guidelines that have changed medical ethics. Unfortunately, there is still a river of suspicion in the Black community flowing from the Tuskegee Syphilis Study; it has swelled to the point that some versions of the story have the Tuskegee Institute actually giving syphilis to some of the participants which, at this point, has never been substantiated.

**The Legacy of Henrietta Lacks.** In 1951, Henrietta Lacks began treatment for cervical cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital, the only Baltimore hospital that treated poor Blacks. Again, in the absence of any basic guidelines on medical ethics, samples of her normal and cancerous cells were retrieved during a biopsy and sent to a prominent cancer and virus researcher’s tissue lab; Lacks wasn’t informed or asked for consent. The researcher had collected samples from all his patients but, previously, had no success

maintaining the cells for research. After Lacks’ death the same year, the researcher sent an assistant to remove more cells from her corpse to use in his work. To add insult to injury, Lacks was misdiagnosed, although the treatment at the time would have been the same.

These “HeLa” cells became the basis of research on the effects of radiation and poisons, to study the human genome, to learn more about how viruses work, and played a crucial role in the development of the polio vaccine. In 1954, Jonas Salk had “HeLa” cells mass-produced for testing the polio vaccine which he didn’t patent or financially benefit from. However, since then, scientists have produced fifty million metric tons of her cells, mailed all over the world; 17,000 U.S. patents have been granted for research using “HeLa” cells, many of which have produced massive profits.

The Lacks family only found out about the use of her “immortal” cells for medical research and for commercial purposes in 1975 when researchers needed information from them, despite the research community having wide-spread knowledge. In 2013, scientists published the genome sequencing of the “HeLa” cells without notifying the Lacks family or asking for their permission. (The genome was removed from publication after the Lacks family objected but the family later reached an agreement with the National Institutes of Health on publication of the genome.) Not only Henrietta Lacks, but the whole Lacks family had their privacy and individual control of their body violated. Today, the Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research hosts two annual Henrietta Lacks Symposia discussing biomedical research and bioethics with research professionals and primarily Black Baltimore youth.

**Moving Forward.** There are several ways to deal with this history of race-based medical mistreatment and the subsequent legacy of suspicion. The first is to say that was then, this is now, and we have medical ethics in place; this is all true. The second is to say that this is part of the history of racism in America that we need to make amends for; this is also true. The third way to deal

with this is to acknowledge all those things but to focus on how to address the legacy of suspicion so that there isn't further injustice done to Blacks who don't trust the medical establishment enough to take the vaccine.

There has been a lot of publicity around Presidents Clinton, Bush '43, and Obama receiving the vaccine on TV. It will certainly help to have the first Black President receive the Covid-19 vaccine on TV. However, like Che says, he was the president so he "might actually get the real one." There needs to be confidence in Dr. Fauci and the Biden White House, including the new Black VP stumping for the vaccine, but there also needs to be tremendous community outreach. Supposedly, the first recipients will be front-line workers, many of whom are Black; although tragically busy, hopefully, they will be able to spread the word about their vaccine experiences. Black pastors and congregations have also reached out to provide speakers and information to encourage their members to consider the vaccine.

The Washington Post, which scooped me on this topic by one day, reported on the efforts of the D.C.-based Black Coalition Against Covid-19, founded by Reed Tuckson, and other groups to encourage Blacks to sign-up for a vaccine trial through the Covid-19 Prevention Network. Underrepresentation of Blacks and other non-whites, as well as women, has historically been another concern with the medical establishment.

"We are taking great pains to help folks understand that what existed in the 1930s is very different today, in 2020," said [Reed] Tuckson, a doctor and health consultant who is a former D.C. health director and sits on the Howard University Board of Trustees. "That there are research scientists of color who are in positions of authority all across the research and medical enterprise."

The article goes on to quote Gary Gibbons, the Black Director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, who talks about the importance of having "trusted messengers" to reach out to the community with "accurate, credible, authentic

messages." Hopefully, President Obama, Black first responders, and community organizers from the Black community will be able to fill that role and overcome decades of mistreatment and mistrust.

If you're interested in joining the Broadway Democrats' Racial Justice Committee, please email your specific areas of interest, if any, and when you're available (evening/morning, never on Tuesday to

[racialjusticecommittee@broadwaydemocrats.org](mailto:racialjusticecommittee@broadwaydemocrats.org). If you're interested in discussing my article, email your comments to [valleygirl109@rocketmail.com](mailto:valleygirl109@rocketmail.com).

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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)

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## State Committeeman Report

Daniel Marks Cohen

Post-November elections, we are appropriately focusing our attention on...Georgia. Winning both Senate seats is at a difficulty level of pulling an inside straight in poker. Doable, but tricky. If the Democrats take both the senate is split 50/50 and Vice President Kamala Harris has a full-time job breaking ties in the Senate. What if we fall short in the Peach State? Well, in the near-term Mitch "the Turtle" McConnell has the gavel again and makes things difficult for President Biden. But...two things to give us additional hope: One is the triennial midterms in 2022. Mostly Republicans defending Senate seats rather than Democrats this time around. If McConnell mucks things up for two years, he could lose his majority, and he could lose it sooner than that, too: three Republican Senators (Toomey in Pennsylvania, Johnson in Wisconsin, and Burr in North Carolina) are up for re-election in 2022, but all three are not seeking office again. Most Democratic Presidents (and a fair number of Republicans, too) have filled at least one of their cabinet slots with a member of the other party in a nod to bipartisanship. Usually the Secretary of Transportation. But there have been other cabinet posts in the mix. Biden might offer any, or all, of the

departing Senators roles in his administration in exchange for an early departure from the Senate. All three states have Democratic Governors, who would gladly appoint a Democrat to replace the departing Republican. Leaving the US Senate is one thing, but getting promoted to a cabinet post on the way out, that might be too tempting to turn down. Now, I do not want them in the cabinet, but if it gives the Democrats control of the Senate? Worth it.

A few years ago, New York agreed to move our Primary date from the second Tuesday in September to the fourth Tuesday in June. The rationale was largely that military personnel were effectively disenfranchised from voting with the Primary and the General so close together. Mail delays prevented them from receiving their ballots, filling them out and returning them in time. Technology enables a ballot to be printed on demand anywhere one has an internet connection, and this movement to June is largely moot. But now we clubs are still stuck starting to collect signatures in the cold of February rather than the warmth of June. Especially in years like this cycle, with City-wide elections hot on the heels of the Presidential elections means that every club is now scrambling to fit in all the endorsement meetings between November and February, for ten offices: the three city-wide positions (Mayor, Public Advocate, and Comptroller), two borough-wide (Borough President and District Attorney), City Council (two districts, the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>), District Leaders, Judicial Delegates and Judges. Perhaps moving us back to a September Primary might be a future option?

I want to commend Broadway Democrats and the Blue Wave activities, the club ran an event or had connections to an event, every night of the week! It was groups like ours, across the state, and across the country, that helped turn the tide and defeat an autocratic incumbent President and saved our Democracy. Thank you.

State Party activities are quiet – we will probably get back into the swing of things in the spring.

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## Incinerator in Our Midst

Katie Hanner

Want to learn more about where the trash from our neighborhood goes?

Join the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (MSWAB) on **Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup>** for a short film and discussion about the Covanta incinerator located in the Ironbound section of Newark NJ, and its impact on the surrounding community.

The film, *The Sacrifice Zone*, runs 30 minutes and can be viewed anytime between 4PM and 6PM.

The discussion will then follow at 6:30 and will include local Ironbound resident and environmental activist Maria Lopez, and attorney Paul Casowitz, who formerly worked at NYC's Department of Sanitation (DSNY). The event is free although donations, which will help fund MSWAB's composting and repair/reuse grant programs, are gladly accepted.

For more info go to:  
<https://www.manhattanswab.org/fundraisers>

## Broadway Dems Book Club Meeting

Heather Ducharme

You're invited to join the Broadway Democrats Book Club meeting on December 22 at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing the novel *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. This book addresses the topics of race, privilege, compassion and justice. This is a great opportunity for members and nonmembers of the Broadway Democrats to have discussions on topics that are pertinent to our mission as a club and to get to know each other better. You can join in on the meeting even if you haven't completed the book yet. If you're interested, please email Heather Ducharme at [heatherducharme15@gmail.com](mailto:heatherducharme15@gmail.com). The registration link will be sent through the listserv and will be posting at [www.broadwaydemocrats.org](http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org).

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## From the Hollers and Hills of North Carolina

Ralph Andrew 3 Parks, non-voting member

First, we need to again celebrate winning the White House by an impressive 306-232 EV advantage. The Harris-Biden ticket did a great job cobbling together a targeted victory at the top. However, the much-anticipated "blue wave" did not materialize. We did not do as well as expected in Senate and House elections, including a LOSS of approximately 13 seats in the lower body, without beating a single Republican incumbent there. The House margin is the slimmest in decades--just 4-5 seats. The majority of the House, Senate, and state legislative battles were fought in disproportionately white and rural states and districts—the places most excited by Trump's candidacy. And, further down the ballot, the losses were horrific. These disasters will really hurt the party and they also bode poorly for the midterm elections in 2022; R's will control the gerrymandering of 183 House seats during reapportionment! Most predict that Dems will lose their majority in the upcoming midterm elections; there were losses of 54 seats in 2010 and 60 in 2018.

The UWS, where I proudly lived for 40 years, tends to point to losses in other areas of the country like FL, IA and OH and NC which are now RED (except for Gov. Cooper here) - NOT purple; but Dems also lost in South Queens, Staten Island and the Rockaways. Trump also garnered tens of thousands of votes more in the South Bronx over his 2016 totals there as he more than doubled his previous totals in each of three state Assembly districts bordering the Harlem River that are considered Democratic bastions. Even in Rep. Ocasio Cortez's (AOC's) district, Trump increased his vote by 9 percentage points. Despite four years of being defined as a racist for his rhetoric and harsh immigration policies, Trump improved his margins in 78 of the nation's 100 majority-Hispanic counties. From the New Yorker: "Trump made double-digit gains in South FL., getting as much as 69% of the Cuban-American vote."

The criticism from the left since 11-3 has been relentless. The consensus is that AOC and the Squad have no standing regarding general elections in other parts of the US, not to mention even in all of NYS. Some endangered Democrats struggled to counter the flood of GOP ads on socialism and defund the police, yet these issues gained considerable traction as the R's aired roughly 70 different broadcast ads that mentioned them, according to data from Advertising Analytics. AOC also criticized some losing Democratic incumbents on *poorly run campaigns* that failed to invest sufficient money in social media. She was quoted in the press as saying: "they were sitting ducks...because they didn't use the internet enough." Living in rural NC, this is totally laughable. It is so sad to see children lined up outside the public libraries before and after they open—to try to connect to the internet to do their school work. It is beyond the pale to suggest that Dems lost so badly here because they didn't invest more in digital ads—when a large percentage of the households (averaging only 50% in rural, mountainous Western NC) don't even have internet service.

The DSA believes that there is a mass constituency for socialism and have demanded that NYCC candidates seeking their endorsement sign the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) pledge

against Israel. Can you imagine how that plays in other areas? It's clearly viewed as anti-Semitic.

\*From Rep. Spanberger Dem of VA: "Dems need to never use the words 'socialism or defund the police' ever again." Yard signs said: Stop Socialism—vote Trump. We lost good members because we were tarred with those."

\*As the Nassau Co. (home of TWO HR losses), Dem chair said: "I invite AOC to come to Long Island and stand for election in one of our districts."

\*California Rep. Gil Cisneros was defeated in a race where his opponent featured him in mailers about socialized medicine that included Bernie Sanders' photo. In return, AOC labeled her critics of the Green New Deal—"RACIST."

\*The ever-quotable, James Carville said recently: "Some of these people need to take a nap."

US Senate Democrats now have to grapple with how to improve their messaging after failing to win back an outright majority for the third cycle in a row. I believe that engaging in an all-out internecine fight will only further distance our party for everyday working Americans. In rural NC, there was no perceived support for local interests—such as Medicaid expansion and support for rural hospitals. A local legislator who just lost, acknowledged: "It was because:

\*Their lives do legitimately suck.

\*They live in meth country, with dim job prospects,

\*Institutions have failed them,

\*Corporations have abandoned them for cheaper labor overseas,

\*Government feels distant, and that it is certainly not, on average, improving their lives,

\*Cities feel like walled gardens; they are unattainable, unaffordable, yet that's where all the jobs are."

Hopes of keeping a Dem majority in the House in 2022, require that we craft a proactive campaign message. The 2020 messaging did not work in rural WNC. The blue-collar voters did not tune in to us and ran from and/or lied to pollsters. We can't just tell voters what we're against; we must get out



front on ‘what we’re for.’ We need to work on what makes headway, rather than what makes headlines. We must have “WINS” for regular Americans. Per President-elect Biden, all of us have a responsibility to try to heal the divisions and restore faith and trust in one another

(Am off to GA to have letters and cards written here—postmarked there!)

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## 2021 Endorsement Meetings

Every eight years, the majority, if not all, our local elected officials are term-limited out. In 2021, we are electing a new mayor, public advocate, comptroller, district attorney, borough president, and two members of the city council; there are over sixty candidates running for these offices. Candidates will introduce themselves, followed by a Q&A session; the moderator will take questions from the Zoom chat box. If you can’t submit questions on Zoom or if you have any other questions, contact District Leaders Paula Diamond Román & Curtis Arluck at [districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org](mailto:districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org). While we’ll try to keep meetings to 7-9pm, there is a chance we may go over occasionally, especially if members have a lot of questions about an office.

Here is a partial schedule for the upcoming meetings. Because of the challenges with Zoom voting, we’ll be doing most of the voting at the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, our constitution requires we vote on club offices on a specific date so all the races presented on January 21<sup>st</sup> will be voted on the same day, including City Council District 7. **We won’t be voting at the December meeting.**

When	What	Minutes
TBD	Mayor	120+
TBD	District Attorney	120+
12/17/20	Club Business	15
	Comptroller	30
	Public Advocate	30
	City Council District 6	30
01/21/21	Club Officers & Steering Committee	60
	Judicial Delegates & Alternates	20
	Female District Leader	20
	Male District Leader	5
	City Council District 7	5
	Discussion & Vote on endorsements	10
02/11/21	Borough President	45
	Discussion & Vote on endorsements	75
03/11/21	Club Business	30
	Discussion/Training on Ranked-Choice-Voting (RCV)	90
06/22/21	Primary Election	

### 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 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, or an area that used to be in the 69<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. 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](mailto:districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org) to make arrangements for a paper ballot.

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We want to hear what you have to say!

Please email newsletter submissions to [bdemsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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.

□□

Stay in touch!

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*or*

Join us on Facebook at

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

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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.

## 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 – December 2020

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CLASS

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New York, NY 10025

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    Paula Diamond Román  
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Newsletter Editor: Heather Ducharme

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED