
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Joe Nunley ◆

2022 NYS SENATE CANDIDATE FORUM

West Side and Upper Manhattan

33rd Senate Dist.:

(formerly 31st)

8pm - 8:15pm

Senator Robert Jackson

32nd Senate Dist.:

(formerly 30th)

8:15pm - 9:30pm

Senator Cordell Cleare

Diini Ali

Shana Harmongoff

Meet the Candidates!
This Thursday,
February 10th

Please RSVP via link below



RSVP here:

tinyurl.com/State-Senate-Candidates-Forum

for more information, email DistrictLeaders@BroadwayDemocrats.org

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Volume 47, Issue 2

February 2022

President's Corner

Joe Nunley

Changing Our Perception and Our Priorities

I am both bemused and horrified by the current squabble between the U.S. and Russia. The United States' primary interest in Ukraine is its 1400-mile border with Russia. Its other interest is the resources and markets that Ukraine under U.S. influence offers. Russia moves troops around its territory. Washington insists that Russia has no right to move its troops near Russia's border with Ukraine. The Pentagon is moving forces closer to Russia in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Kyiv continue to take its orders from Washington, which helped create the current political reality there when it openly intervened in the electoral process in 2014 as part of its expansion eastward via NATO after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The U.S. believes that it should be able to expand its empire at will. Moscow, of course, disagrees.

Now we come to NATO. The fact of its continued existence and influence reveals a great deal. NATO is a tool of U.S. empire, a military means to keep the nations in an alliance under U.S. dominion. It masquerades as an equal protector and equal alliance of nations but of course it's not.

Russia has two legitimate points. The first is that NATO needs to end its expansion. The second is that Russia has every right to move its troops in its territory and undertake war games when it wants to. Look, the U.S. military is deployed in at least one hundred countries with nearly 900 bases and undertakes war games quite frequently on the borders of Russia, China and North Korea.

We take a "my way or the highway" approach to foreign policy. We exercise very little real diplomacy of late. The Obama administration successfully negotiated with Iran and Cuba but that has just about been it since. Trump pulled out of the Iran Nuclear Deal, which Iran was abiding by, and imposed sanctions. Then the Biden administration, saying that it wants to resurrect the deal, imposed additional sanctions on Iran. Then, regarding Cuba, under Obama we were getting to a place where we could perhaps end the 62-year embargo/blockade of Cuba

and relations had been normalized. The Trump administration ended all of that and imposed 200 additional sanctions on Cuba which the Biden administration has made no effort to lift.

It has a great deal to do with how we see ourselves. We see ourselves as owners of the world and everybody else as just renters. We have a financial sphere which we dominate. Any nation which refuses to come into our orbit is considered an adversary. Any nation, no matter how ruthless, that complies with our desires is a friend, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Hungary.

All of this is considered "wise" or "mature" or "realistic" by the establishment which has been taught in elite universities of the necessity for America to exert its power in order to maintain "security" (I'm not sure for whom anymore).

This policy which made a lot of sense in 1947 makes no sense today. We've seen the dividends. We've lost war after war in Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and we've destroyed the lives of millions.

The military and everything related to it is our significant footprint on the world. We're not known as a protector of human rights. We're known for our empire of power in the world exerted through our military. One can argue whether the military has brought security to our own nation or not. The military can address only certain kinds of threats and not others. The Pentagon has declared that climate change is our greatest national security threat – but there is not an institution in the world that emits more carbon into our atmosphere than the U.S. military. The Pentagon successfully negotiated not to have its emissions included in the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

And of course, the Pentagon was no help in protecting our national security in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, which to date has killed over 900,000 of our citizens. China, with 1.3 billion people, has a population four times the size of ours. It has reported 8,000 deaths from COVID. Now, China may be lying. It's an autocratic state. Maybe it's 50,000, maybe it's 100,000, but it doesn't look like it. China has a healthcare system for all its citizens; we don't. Our fight against COVID-19 has been an abysmal failure despite our best efforts. We know of course that we have been seditiously,

politically sabotaged by anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers.

As progressive Democrats in The Broadway Democrats, we know that the Democratic Party is a coalition while the current Republican Party is an extreme right-wing cult of personality which is very dangerous. Nevertheless, although we support President Biden, we know that he has never been progressive on foreign policy and has often been quite wrong in his decisions (the Iraq invasion is an example). We must continue to make our voices heard and speak out against the monstrous military-industrial-surveillance complex. We must never again vote for a \$768 billion military budget! It's outrageous. Republicans refuse our efforts to do things for our people who are in dire need, and yet too many Democrats joined them to support this expenditure. Let's remember: we do not say "I pledge allegiance to Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, General Dynamics and Boeing". We say, "I pledge allegiance to the United State of America."

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

District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

New Lines at Last!

Subject to Republican court challenge, of course, but we finally have lines to work with.

The **69th Assembly District** lines are most important to us, not so much because we love Danny O'Donnell (we do!) but because they become the basis for our official district, the 69th AD Part C. And since we also accept voting members from throughout the 69th AD, these lines pretty much determine who will be eligible to vote in our club for the next ten years.

The AD lines in our area are relatively unchanged, with one important exception: the four blocks between Amsterdam Ave. and Morningside Dr. which were inexplicably moved out of the 69th

AD in the last redistricting are restored to it. Welcome back, Mary Hines and Co.!

Sadly, we do not gain back the three blocks in the 122nd St./Claremont Ave./Tiemann Place area that have been shuttling back and forth between the 69th and the 70th AD since the 70's. But registered Democrats in this area continue to be eligible to be full voting members of Broadway Democrats, and always will be.

The Congressional lines here are completely unchanged. Jerry Nadler (10th District) and Adriano Espaillat (13th District) will represent the same blocks in our area as in the past (Espaillat, north of 122nd St. and Manhattan Valley; Nadler the rest). Elsewhere, their lines change a bit more—our old friend Caroline Maloney returns to the UWS, representing Columbus to CPW below 85th—but nothing dramatically different.

State Senate lines change the most, and with good reason: the last lines were drawn by the Senate Republicans, and were atrocious, dividing the West Side among five different Senators, and with every Upstate district having 30,000 fewer people than every NYC district. These lines are *much* better; don't listen to Republican lies to the contrary.

To give Robert Jackson a district that represents Western Manhattan from the Upper West Side to Marble Hill rather than resembling the country of Chile, his district, now numbered 33 instead of 31, sheds parts of Chelsea and (even before the pandemic) unpopulated West Midtown, and gains more blocks in the Upper West Side above 79th St. and Morningside Heights below 116th. In our area, the dividing line between Robert Jackson and Cordelle Cleare (whose new district is the 32nd) is generally Amsterdam Avenue up to 116 St. (Jackson to the west, Cleare to the east), with Cordelle keeping most of the area above that.

There are three important exceptions: the Cathedral Parkway Towers block, Morningside Gardens, and the four westernmost Grant Houses buildings also are part of the Jackson district. The latter of these makes little sense: Jackson used to represent Morningside Gardens and Grant in the City Council and is very popular there, but that's still no excuse for dividing Grant between two different State Senators. Fortunately, Robert and Cordelle get along very well, and worked together to restore heat to the Grant buildings that had lost it during the cold days of January.

For the district and the Manhattan and statewide offices, it should be an exciting campaign season. I look forward to "seeing" you at our Endorsement

Meeting February 17th, and at the other Candidate Forums you can read about in this newsletter.



Stay in touch!

visit us at

<http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org>

or

join us on Facebook at

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



State Committeeman Report

Daniel Marks Cohen

The State Democratic Committee (NYSDC) is convening Feb. 16-17 at the Marriott Marquis in midtown Manhattan, to nominate candidates for statewide office. Each member of the state committee gets a vote, weighted to turnout in the last gubernatorial election. The 69th Assembly District consistently has had among the highest, if not the highest, voter turnout of any district in the state, so the vote from the 69th AD carries the most weight. There are roughly 450 members of the NYSDC, so if it were split evenly between all the members, Lynn Thomas and I would each have one-quarter of one percent of the vote. But in actuality, we each have about twice that – meaning that together Lynn and I have more than 1% of the vote combined.

Why does this matter? Because a candidate for state-wide office only needs 25% of the vote of the NYSDC to get on the ballot (rather than collecting signatures to get on the ballot from across the state – a time-consuming, labor-intensive and expensive process). Considering the momentum behind Governor Kathy Hochul's campaign to be elected this year, along with her Lt. Governor, Brian Benjamin, and incumbents Attorney General Letitia James and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli seeking re-election, it seems likely that all four will get on the ballot with ease. So far, no credible challengers have emerged for LG, AG or Comptroller; the question is whether NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Congressman Tom Suozzi each have the support from enough committee members to gain access to the ballot.

Were Gov. Hochul not an incumbent there is some history of approving all legitimate candidates for statewide office – an arrangement that would be predetermined prior to the convention. This happened in 2010 when there were five candidates running for Attorney General, and all of them were

granted ballot access. One might pause and ask how if 25% is required, all FIVE got on the ballot, as that math would be out of whack, as I recall it involved series of votes and something about the entire Bronx delegation briefly leaving the room, and then returning. This is not always the case though – note that Tish James got 85% of the vote at the 2018 NYSDC convention, over Zephyr Teachout and Leecia Eve, to succeed Eric Schneiderman as AG.

Hochul has been working the phones to line up support. I have publicly committed to her, and all of the clubs in the 69th AD have been clear that they – or will very shortly – endorse her. Considering the close race for LG in 2018 between Hochul and Williams, one might have expected a tight race again this time around, but Hochul, to her credit, has been pushing a number of progressive policies and making inroads among the Left in the Democratic Party. It is not total, to be sure, but she has largely avoided the Left-vs.-Center battles of days past and seems well positioned to prevail in the June Primary.

And lastly: as expected, the Independent Redistricting Commission deadlocked between the two parties, and its plans were voted down by the NYS legislature which has now drawn its own lines. As the legislature is completely controlled by Democrats, the new lines protect Democrats and incumbents and impact the districts of Republicans and retiring legislators. As I predicted in last month's column, the 69th AD's lines changed very little (see District Leader Arluck's report in this issue.



Club Elections

The following persons were re-elected as officers of the Broadway Democrats for 2022:

President: Joe Nunley

Vice President: Richard Siegel

Recording Secretary: Laura Mandel

Corresponding Secretary: Meika Mustrangi

Treasurer: Dan Zweig

12-Member Steering Committee

Pat Almonrode

David Isaacson

Susan Crawford

Noah Kaufman

Allison Downing

Mary Peppito

Liam Elkind

Luis Román

Peter Flom

Angela Rooks

John George

Barbara Trelstad

Congratulations to all!



Go Blue 2022

Laura Danford Mandel and Mary Peppito

What Can YOU Do to Save Democracy?

Go Blue 2022 is traveling to Philadelphia on Saturday, Feb. 12 to register voters. We are arranging other groups to go on Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 (both Sundays). Let us know if you'd like to join or if you have any questions. All are welcome! Email us at goblueuws@gmail.com

Who Are We?

Go Blue is a committee of Broadway Democrats. We are neighbors and friends who are committed to help elect Democrats to local, state, and national offices. Most of us live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, and we seek to enlist other like-minded volunteers to help keep, or turn, as many elected positions Blue as possible.

When Do We Campaign?

Now! The sooner we start, the better. Much of our voter registration activities, canvassing, and letter-writing occur on the weekends, although as we get closer to election days, we find opportunities to campaign during the week, both in the evening and during the day.

Where Do We Campaign?

In 2022, we will focus most intensely on the elections in the state of Pennsylvania.

Why Do We Campaign?

We believe there is an urgent need to restore and enhance fair representation for all residents in our communities. We believe that nothing short of the future of democracy is at stake and that we must do all that we can to push back against the Trump-led Republicans who strive to make our country less democratic.

What Do We Do?

We partner with a variety of grass-roots organizations and campaigns to help register voters, help voters with mail-in balloting, and get out the vote. We canvass in person and by phone, and we write letters and postcards about registration and voting. Organizations and campaigns we have supported and partnered with in the past include:

- TurnPABlue
- FieldTeam6
- Reclaim Our Vote / Center for Common Ground



State Elections

District Leader Paula Diamond Román

Welcome to a crazy election year! We finally got new districts just in the nick of time (petitioning starts March 1st so we need to get petitions printed so we need to endorse so we need to have districts!). We're having a series of meetings, including our endorsement meeting. At the multi-club forums, the moderator will introduce the candidates and ask all of them a series of questions, then they will take questions submitted beforehand (please send your questions to me at valleygirl109@rocketmail.com), or in the Q&A box during the meeting

- **NYS State Senate Candidates Multi-Club Forum**
February 10, 8-9:30pm

tinyurl.com/State-Senate-Candidates-Forum

- **Broadway Democrats' Endorsement Meeting**
February 17, 7:30-9:30pm

Local candidates, except for State Senate will speak briefly; the electronic ballot box will open at 7:30pm on February 17 and close at 9:30pm on February 18 (two Congressional seats, two state Senate seats, one Assembly seat, two state committee seats, Surrogate and Civil Court seats; six Judicial Delegates/six Alternates will be voted on **at the meeting.**)

tinyurl.com/Endorsement-Meeting-Feb-17

- **Gubernatorial Candidates Multi-Club Forum**
February 23, 8-9pm

Link will be emailed at a later date.

Electronic balloting will open at 8:00pm on Feb. 23 and close at 9:00pm on Feb. 24 for all statewide offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, one Senate seat).

In these days of COVID where all our meetings are virtual, paying your dues and voting in club elections are both more complicated than they used to be. The good news is **you can now pay your dues online.** Details on how to do this follow.

Also keep in mind:

- The January 20 meeting was your **last chance** to establish eligibility to vote in the all-important February 17 endorsement meeting. If you have not attended a club meeting since February 2020, you won't be eligible to vote at the February meeting.
- At both meetings, you will be able to participate by phone, even if you can't use the Zoom video features.

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 other club for the 2022 races;
- You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings; and
- You must be up to date with your dues.

Dues are \$25 (\$10 for seniors), and may be paid by check mail a check to: Broadway Democrats, P.O. Box 1099, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025 **or** by PayPal or credit card at:

broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues

When you pay your dues, please include your email address and telephone number. Dues paid in October 2021 or later count for full year 2022 membership.

We will once again conduct the voting electronically using a software called OpaVote. We'll email a link to your online OpaVote ballot and instructions closer to the vote.

As always, please email Curtis and me at districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org if you have any questions about whether you're eligible to vote or how the voting works; or if you're interested in being a Judicial Delegate or Alternate; or a county committee member.



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)



This Just In ...

On Monday, February 7, the Supreme Court issued an opinion in *Merrill v. Milligan*. This is another of the Court's "shadow docket" opinions, unsigned and issued without full briefing or argument from the parties. And it's a doozy.

At issue in the case were Alabama's new congressional-district maps. A district court had ruled that the new districts were impermissible racial gerrymanders, and invalidated the new maps. But the Supreme Court decided, 5-4, to reinstate the maps *for now*, pending a full hearing, likely next fall. That means that the 2022 congressional elections in Alabama will take place under the new maps – which the lower court had found were *explicitly designed* to prevent Black voters from electing candidates of their choice.

Again, the opinion was unsigned and did not offer any reasoning. But in a concurrence, Justice Kavanaugh gave away the game. He cited *Purcell v. Gonzales*, a 2006 decision that held that courts should not change the rules of an election "too close" to that election. But as Justice Kagan pointed out in her scathing dissent, Alabama's primary isn't until May, and its general election is about *nine months* away – hardly the kind of last-minute changes *Purcell* prohibits.

Kavanaugh's reading of *Purcell* effectively immunizes gerrymanders from judicial review, since another election is never *that* far off. As Elie Mystal writes in *The Nation*, "the court has decided that Black people do not get to participate fully in the midterms. ... Good luck, white folks. Let us know what kind of country y'all decide to have. I'll still be waiting online to vote while white people bemoan the lack of Black turnout on TV."



We Want To Hear What *You* Have To Say!



Email submissions to the editor (in MS Word, please) at palmonrode@gmail.com.

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

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

February 2022

FIRST
CLASS

P.O. Box 1099
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New York, NY 10025

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District Leaders:
Curtis Arluck,
Paula Diamond Román
President: Joe Nunley
Newsletter Editor: Pat Almonrode

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED