
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Heather Ducharme ♦

June General Meeting: The Upcoming Primary

An open Club discussion about the strategic use of ranked choice voting and other issues in this election

Our endorsed candidates have been invited to send representatives

online, via Zoom

Thursday, June 10

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp!

registration information to come

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Albany Update

Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell

With the Legislative session slated to end in Mid-June, Albany is abuzz with activity right now. Despite the pandemic, we have already had a (perhaps surprisingly!) productive year in the State Legislature. First and foremost: our State Budget in April was the largest in State history, due to support from the Federal Government (we all owe a thank you to President Biden, Senators Jon Ossoff and Rafael Warnock, and our own Majority Leader Chuck Schumer). We put the money to good use, funding rent relief programs for tenants and small businesses, supporting vaccine distribution efforts, addressing historical underfunding of our schools, and creating a historic Arts Recovery and Revitalization Fund (a victory I'm particularly proud of, as Chair of the Arts Committee).

In addition to recovery funds, this year my colleagues in the State Legislature and I finally enacted a millionaire's tax (a priority I have supported, and introduced legislation on, for years), legalized recreational marijuana, ended solitary confinement as we know it in New York State, and passed new workplace safety measures. These are each longstanding priority for me, and for the Broadway Democrats, and each address economic, racial, and social inequality in our state.

As we barrel toward the end of session, the Legislature is focused on equity and recovery. I am proud to support several bills that reform the parole process, including compassionate legislation allowing individuals over 55 who have served 15 years or more to be granted a parole hearing. Parole reform further strengthens my recently enacted bill restoring the right to vote to those on parole (passed with significant support and outreach from many members of this club – thank you!). The fight for climate action is ongoing, with several significant pieces of legislation gaining traction, and major priorities like the New York Health Act are still pending. I am committed to pushing to get these bills over the finish line, and the more folks involved, the better!

Personally, I am focused on several exciting bills. One is my legislation to end 'grand jury secrecy'. This bill seeks to address a historical

wrong we have seen play out time and time again. From Eric Garner in Staten Island to Breonna Taylor in Kentucky to Daniel Prude in Rochester, the pattern is sadly familiar: a police officer kills a citizen, and despite clear evidence of misconduct, the charges are somehow dropped in the privacy of a grand jury. Was there an honest attempt at justice? Was the grand jury misled? Currently, the public has no idea. My bill will change that – protecting the privacy of the grand jury system in most cases, but allowing critical transparency when there are concerns about why a case was dismissed. I am hopeful that this bill will pass the Assembly in the coming days.

In addition, I am proud to carry important LGBTQ legislation this session. This year marks 10 years since I passed legislation legalizing same sex marriage. It is not secret that the fight to win this victory was long and arduous, and ruffled many feathers at the time. But when we finally won, marriage equality opened the door for a host of LGBTQ bills in the decade since. This year, I am deeply honored to be carrying the Gender Recognition Act (GRA), a bill that will help transgender New Yorkers obtain government documents, including birth certificates and drivers' licenses, that reflect their true identify. Despite how far we've come, transgender people are still under attack nationwide, with over 250 bills targeting trans people introduced in states across the country in 2021 alone. It is absolutely vital that our State continue to be a beacon of progress and ensure that transgender people are respected, affirmed, and supported. I look forward to the GRA passing, and to celebrating LGBTQ Pride Month throughout June.

Soon, Summer will be here, the Legislature will go on break, and we will all continue to emerge from our cloistered pandemic lives. Stay safe, get vaccinated, and enjoy the world around us – there is so much to celebrate.

Truly yours,

Danny



District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Early Voting Locations and Times

Early Voting for the June 22nd primary will be held on consecutive days from Saturday June 12 through Sunday June 20. The exact times for each day appear below.

New Early Voting Location

There is a great new Early Voting location that covers the central part of our district: **2872 Broadway**, between 111th and 112th on the east side of the street, between Janoff's Stationery and the kid's shoe store. Formerly, this site was occupied by Citibank, when it was displaced by the fire from its current location across the street. All voters whose Election Day poll sites are PS 165, 410 Riverside, Riverside Church, 125 West 109th and MS 54 will Early Vote at this new location. You must Early Vote at your assigned location, you cannot Early Vote at other locations. For example, most voters whose regular poll site is Riverside Church live closer to The Forum Early Voting site on 125th, but they still must Early Vote at 2872 Broadway.

New Election Day Voting Location

The Red Oak at 135 West 106th, which was closed last year for pandemic-related reasons because it is a mostly senior facility, will reopen with a smaller number of EDs. In our area, EDs 8 and 74 will once again vote at the Red Oak, while ED's 75 and 76 will continue voting at Middle School 54, entering from 107th and Columbus. All other area voters have the same Election Day voting locations in June 2021 as they did in November 2020.

Early Voting Locations

2872 Broadway (near 112th): All voters whose Election Day poll sites are PS 165, 410 Riverside, Riverside Church, 125 West 109th and MS 54. EDs 72-73, 75-80, 83-88, 90-93, 95-96, 98, 110.

The Forum, 605 West 125th (corner of Bdwy): All voters whose Election Day poll sites are PS 36, 80 La Salle, 3150 Broadway, 75 La Salle, 1295 Amsterdam, and 1315 Amsterdam. EDs 89, 94, 97, 99-102, 108.

Wadleigh Middle School, 215 West 114th (enter on 115th): All voters whose Election Day poll sites are 300 West 110th (Towers on the Park) and Charles Hill Tower. EDs 81, 82, 109

West Side High, 140 West 102nd (enter on 101st): All voters whose regular poll site is the Red Oak. EDs 8 and 74.

The EDs indicated are just for our immediate district. Note that The Forum's Early Voting area extends significantly further north into Manhattanville and West Harlem, the Wadleigh School's EV area extends in all directions in South Central Harlem, and West Side High's EV area extends south as far as the West 90's.

Early Voting Times

Sat. and Sun., June 12 and 13: 8am – 5pm

Mon. June 14 and Fri. June 18: 7am – 4pm

Tues. – Thurs., June 15 – 17: 10am – 8pm

Sat. June 19: 8am – 5pm

Sun. June 20: 8am – 4pm

Election Day, June 22

Vote 6am – 9pm at your regular poll site

*

*For both Election Day and especially Early Voting, we strongly advise you to bring your Fast Pass Tag, mailed to you by the Board of Elections earlier in the year. **It will save time!***

*

Ranked Choice Voting Concepts II

I discussed this at greater length last month. Here are the key points:

1) This is not like ordering theater tickets, where you would rather get your first choice than your second choice, your second choice than your third choice, and so on. We have to be **strategic**.

2) Your first place vote should not be for your sentimental choice who you think has no chance of winning. Yes, if you vote for a more realistic candidate second your vote will *likely* wind up transferring to your second choice when your first choice is eliminated. But it is still much better for a candidate to bank a lot of first place votes. See this as a track race: sometimes, a person runs faster for 90% of the race but still loses, because they started behind and couldn't quite catch up.

3) For your fifth or possibly fourth place choice, you should figure out who the strongest finishers are likely to be, and choose between them, even if you don't particularly like either of them. That way, there is a strong chance that you will help pick the winner. Shifting from the theoretical to the practical, I prefer Shaun Donovan to either Eric Adams or

Andrew Yang. But I'm not going to vote for him in fifth place, because he will have been eliminated by then, and my vote won't count. I will hold my nose, and vote fifth for either Adams or Yang. At this point, it will be Yang, because I don't think he is as bad on development issues. But it will be for one of them. In this hypothetical but very plausible scenario, if my top three choices, Stringer, Garcia and Wiley, in that order, don't make it, I want to help decide who the next Mayor actually will be. And that means Adams or Yang.

Broadway Democrats Endorsed Candidates: Vote for Them as Your First Choice!

(No ranked choice voting for D.A. or Judicial Convention Delegates)

Mayor: **Scott Stringer**

Public Advocate: **Jumaane Williams**

Comptroller: **Brian Benjamin**

Borough President: **Mark Levine**

District Attorney: **Alvin Bragg**

City Council, 7th District: **Dan Cohen**

City Council, 6th District: **Gale Brewer**

Civil Court Judge, 5th District: **Hasa Kingo**

Judicial Delegates (yes, they are opposed!)
Vote for All 18: Alan Flacks, Luis Román, Kenneth Sherrill, Elizabeth Kellner, Amy Porter, Stephanie Pinto, Alfred Placeres, Mary Peppito, Judith York, Audrey Isaacs, Catharine Grad, Joella Jones, Joshua Pepper, Heather Ducharme, Sharon Silverfarb, Deborah Thomas, Pat Almonrode, and Carol Van Deusen



President's Corner

Heather Ducharme

Members and friends,

A reminder that this month is the Democratic Primary in New York City! See our District Leader's helpful article above for more information, and/or go to vote.nyc/page/primary-election-june-22-2021.

This month's forum will be an open discussion about Ranked Choice Voting which will be used for the first time in the June 22nd Primary. We hope members and friends will come to the event with their insights and questions so that we can have a thought-provoking and enlightening discussion.

Our book club is meeting on June 15th at 7pm to discuss *Christy* by Catherine Marshall. I hope this fiction piece will help our book club members think about and discuss the life of teachers and the sacrifices they make to ensure the students in our communities have the best opportunity to thrive. See the article below for registration information.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at president@broadwaydemocrats.org if interested in learning more about the club or joining us!

Best,

Heather



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.



Action Alert: Pending NYS Voting Machine Legislation

Susan Crawford

The New York State Legislature is currently considering purchasing new electronic voting machines that will *not allow* for verifiable audits, and that are capable of changing votes. To remedy this, two bills have been introduced that will correct for those deficits. The bill in the Senate (S309) is moving forward. The one in the Assembly (A1115) has been stalled, awaiting Speaker Heastie's decision to release it from committee.

Several NYS chapters of Indivisible, along with other good government groups, have joined with SMART Elections to work to pass this legislation passed before the session ends on June 10. Voters are urged to fill out this form to support passage of the bills: actionnetwork.org/letters/urgent-new-york-votes-under-attack-right-now.

The form includes an explanation of the legislation and the machines under consideration. To understand more fully what the bills are intended to correct, and what's wrong with the machines if this legislation is *not* passed, see also smartelections.us/home.

June Book Club Meeting

Heather Ducharme

For June, we'll be reading *Christy* by Catherine Marshall. This novel follows a young teacher who leaves her hometown to teach in a one-room school in the fictional town of Cutter Gap, Tennessee.

We'll meet (via Zoom) on Tuesday, June 15th at 7pm. Please register for the meeting at tinyurl.com/June-Book-Club-Christy (the link will also be posted on our Facebook Group "Broadway Democrats"). You can always email me at heatherducharme15@gmail.com for more information. All are welcome!



From the Membership Committee

Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor. Encourage them to join The Broadway Democrats. An active electorate informs and encourages thoughtful voting. Voter participation is crucial to the health of our democracy. Join us!



From GoBlue

Meika A. Mustrangi

We're calling NYS lawmakers to get common sense and much needed parole reform passed *this year!*

Join us in calling NYS legislators and asking them to co-sponsor "Less is More: Community Supervision Revocation Reform Act" (S1144/A5576).

We are hosting two Zoom *phonezaps*: on Monday, June 7 from 6 to 7pm and on Tuesday, June 8 from 12 to 1pm. Can't join us on those dates? Sign up (below) and we'll send you the info so you can call (and email) our representatives on your own.

A phonezap is a barrage of calls, inundating the offices of our target legislators. We'll provide a call script and a list of about 10 legislators to call. We are partnering with the Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice, which is leading the state-wide campaign (www.LessIsMoreny.org).

Shamefully, New York is *first in the nation* in re-incarcerating people for *minor* violations of parole (e.g., something as small as being late for curfew). This outdated and unfair system is responsible for over 30% of new admissions to our jails and prisons and is a major pipeline for mass incarceration. It impedes successful reintegration by parolees into their communities, with no measurable benefit to public safety. It disproportionately affects people of color: Blacks are 5 times more likely than whites to be sent back to prison for a minor violation statewide and 12 times more likely in NYC.

"Less is More" would restrict the use of incarceration for technical violations, bolster due process, provide speedy hearings, and provide earned time credits.

Sponsored by Assemblymember Phara Forrest (A5576) and our own State Senator Brian Benjamin (S1144), "Less is More" has broad support from District Attorneys and other law enforcement officers as well as NYC and NYS officials. At last count, 277 organizations have endorsed "Less is More." You can see the entire list at tinyurl.com/Less-Is-More-Letter.

A 2018 New York Times editorial, "The Problem with Parole," highlighted the systemic problems and advocated for the reforms included in "Less is More": www.nytimes.com/2018/02/11/opinion/problem-parole.html.

This is the final push of the NYS legislative session, which ends on June 10!

"Less is More" already has 29 sponsors in the state Senate (out of a total of 63 Senators) and 66 sponsors in the Assembly (out of a total of 150 Assemblymembers). If we get more co-sponsors the bill has a good chance of being brought to a vote in the Senate and Assembly and being passed *this year!*

Sign up to join us Mon, June 7 (6-7pm) and/or Tues, June 8 (12-1pm), or to make calls on your own:

<https://tinyurl.com/Phonezap-SignUp>.

Questions? Please contact Meika A. Mustrangi at meika2008@gmail.com.



Please make your check payable to Broadway Democrats and mail it to Broadway Democrats, P.O. Box 1099, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025. You can also donate on-line at <http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/fundraiser-contribution-2021.html>. Please email any questions to fundraiser@broadwaydemocrats.org. You must contact us by June 4 to be listed in the invitation.

\$500 Benefactor
\$300 Patron
\$175 Sponsor
\$150 Guest (not listed in invitation or program)
\$50 Dues-paid Member (not listed in invitation or program)
\$35 Dues-paid Senior or Student Member (not listed in invitation or program)

Broadway Democrats' 2021 Spring Fling Fundraiser
Sunday, June 27, 4:00 pm
via Zoom
Honorees:
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
and
Bloomngdale Aging in Place

The Broadway Democrats
Newsletter – June 2021

FIRST
CLASS

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