
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

LANDER for Mayor

Brad Lander Town Hall:
Stand Up to Trump,
Stand Up for NYC!

Thursday May 8
7:00 – 8:30 pm
doors open at 6:00 pm

Broadway Presbyterian Church
601 W. 114th Street

RSVP here:

<https://www.mobilize.us/landerformayor/event/781161/>

Or scan:



for more information:

bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

Volume 50, Issue 4

May 2025

President's Corner:

Protest, Resist and Organize.

We Only Need 3 Seats to Flip the House!

Mary Peppito

This past Sunday we honored Laura Friedman and her stalwart progressive efforts to make change and move the needle forward. As a compliment to her activism, we honored Rise & Resist, a non-violent activist group that formed after Trump 1.0 to combat his destructive policies and make sure that he could do as little damage as possible to this country.

It has never been more important to show up on the streets and register our resistance to the authoritarian policies of Trump 2.0, and we will continue to do so. But we must also start to focus on another weapon in our arsenal: flipping Congress in 2026 to establish guardrails Trump's autocracy.

According to Swingleft, another influential group that organized after the 2016 presidential election which focused on flipping the House in 2018, "reclaiming the Senate is near-impossible for Democrats in 2026, but winning the House is achievable—and essential. But only if we start early."

Swingleft has targeted 15 Republican-held seats that are susceptible to being flipped – if we put in the work. According to Swingleft, the 15 targeted "Republican-held swing districts were won by a margin of 4% or less, or is a district that Kamala Harris won in 2024—making these races highly competitive in 2026. By focusing volunteer time and money here, we can maximize our impact to flip three seats." The seats range from Alaska to Arizona, including four in Pennsylvania & New York. **And** we only need to win three: Ryan McKenzie (PA7), Rob Breshnahan (PA8), and Scott Perry (PA10), as well as our own Republican chameleon, Mike Lawler (NY17).

To be safe however, we cannot be complacent about the seats we flipped in 2024. SwingLeft, noted that "we must also defend vulnerable Democratic seats. These first-term members of Congress fall into two categories: they won by less than 3% or

represent districts that voted for Trump." There are 10 Democratic House district seats that fall into this category and two are in New York: Laura Gillen (NY4) and Josh Riley (NY19).

It is essential that we start to organize and fundraise now to support these candidates and help safeguard against the billionaires that inevitably will weigh in to try to defeat us. We will show up and win again. Let's do this!



District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Campaigning. We're in a bit of a lull between our extremely successful — over 1700 signatures! — petitioning efforts and the June 24 primary, but things are about to heat up again. Join us on the streets and at the Brad Lander Town Hall Thursday, May 8th, 7 PM at the Broadway Presbyterian Church on 114th St.

Marching. It was good to see so many of you at the marches. While humor, as was shown in all those creative signs, can help, we know that, at least unless you were born before 1945, these are the most dangerous times any of us have ever lived through. And it will get worse before it gets better. There are many things that have to be done. Continuing to be out there with millions of folks opposed to this Tyranny is one of the most important.

Honoring Laura Friedman and Rise and Resist. It was both emotional and inspiring to be at the Broadway Democrats 50th Anniversary party this Sunday. We spoke to friends and candidates old and new, honored the so important and so aptly named Rise and Resist, and most of all got to be With the late Laura Friedman and her family. For so long, Laura was both the issue and the organizing force behind Broadway Democrats. She gave us and the world so much. It was an honor to give a little of this back to Laura, Paul and Elana.

Democrat Bashing: Enough Already! We all can do a better job, the Democratic Party included, but I'm getting sick and tired of hearing, especially from other Democrats, about how bad we are. It's almost always exaggerated, it's often untrue, and it usually helps our enemies, without being helpful to our cause.

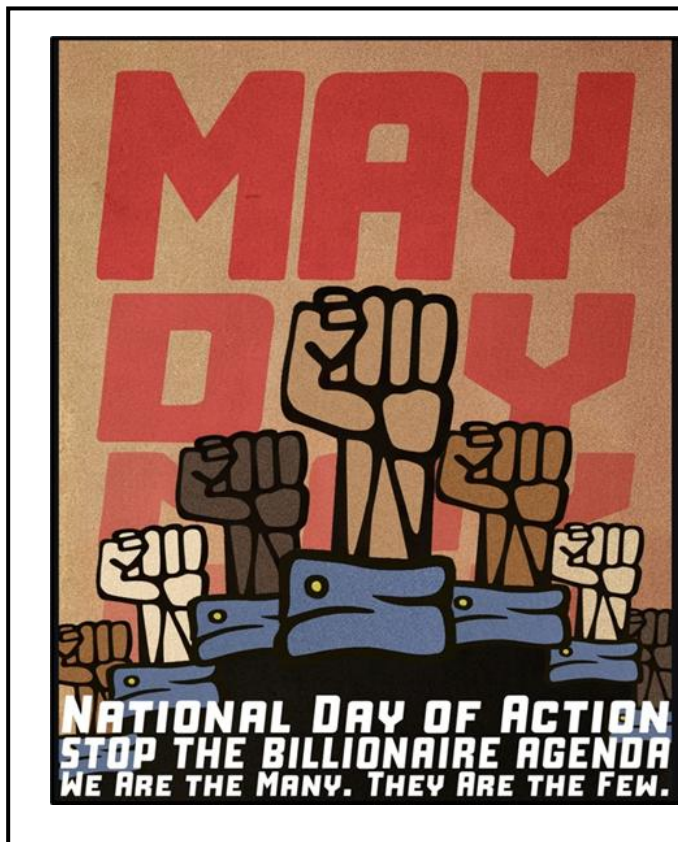
Sure, we can do better, even much better. Our party leaders are too old, too timid, too influenced by their wealthy donors on issues such as health care where more progressive solutions are supported by the overwhelming majority of the American people. But even there, we have Obamacare, we have some limitation of prescription drug costs, we have Medicare and Medicaid, all of which Trump and the Republicans are trying to destroy. We have a virtually full employment economy: 50 of the 51 million jobs created since Bill Clinton took office in 1993 were created under Democratic administrations. The stock market was doing great until Trump came in with his idiotic, inflation-causing tariffs, and it almost always does much better when the Democrats hold the White House.

Most of all, President Biden led the greatest infrastructure and jobs-creation programs since FDR. For this and other reasons he was enthusiastically supported by Bernie Sanders and AOC, the avatars—with much justification—of what

Great Democrats are supposed to sound like. (Yes, Biden should have stepped down sooner, but it's grossly unfair to blame "The Democratic Party" for this, as if it were a monolith that somehow could have overcome the opposition of his family and the continuing support he was getting, especially in minority communities, from Democrats who valued his service and didn't realize how incapable he was of providing it anymore.)

When the "Election Was Stolen" cultists were raving and marching and destroying, they got very little sympathy from us. Of course the people who concluded that Trump would be better for the economy deserve more respect from us than this, but I'm done apologizing to them, and so should the Democrats as a group. We gave the country a pretty damn good economy, some semblance of racial, economic and political justice, and most of all a democracy. Trump is destroying them all. We are, however imperfectly, trying to improve. Trump never will. We Democrats are justified in saying, "Don't Blame Us." But instead of continuing down this negative road, let's follow it with the uplifting, and correct: "Help Us Make It Better."

DL



May 1 National Day of Action

*Stop the Billionaire Agenda
Stand Up for Workers
Support the Rule of Law*

Rally at Foley Square

Thursday May 1

5:00 – 7:00 pm

**Meet at 110th Street
Downtown 1 train stop**

4:30

Bring Signs!

**THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS, A LEADING NEW YORK CITY DEMOCRATIC CLUB,
CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT ANNUAL SPRING FLING
HONORING THE LATE HON. LAURA FRIEDMAN AND RISE & RESIST**

**Elected Officials, Current Candidates, Judicial Candidates, and Activists Attend
Sunday, April 27th at The Ellington**

The Broadway Democrats, the official Democratic club of Morningside Heights and Manhattan Valley proudly hosted their annual Spring Fling on Sunday, April 27th at The Ellington — marking a significant milestone: the club's 50th anniversary.

This year's celebration honored two pillars of activism and social justice. The late Hon. Laura Friedman received the Excellence in Democracy Award, presented to Paul Shneyer, Laura's husband, and their daughter, Elana Shneyer, recognizing her lifelong commitment to community advocacy, labor rights, and historic preservation. In a moving tribute, District Leaders (69th Assembly District, Part C) Curtis Arluck and Paula Diamond Román announced that the award will be renamed the Laura Friedman Excellence in Democracy Award in her memory.

District Leader Paula Diamond Román said: "Laura devoted her life to the idea of 'each one, teach one,' lifting others up — whether through the labor movement, her advocacy for the community, or her work in government. Her passion for justice, her warmth, and her brilliance made her a role model for generations of activists and showed us that lasting change happens when we work for it together."

"Laura Friedman was the beating heart of progressive activism in our community," District Leader Curtis Arluck added. "She wasn't just a leader — she was a mentor, a neighbor, and a friend. Her spirit lives on in every fight for justice we undertake today."

Additionally, the activist group [Rise and Resist](#) was honored with the Ida and Jesse Frankel Community Service Award. Formed in response to the 2016 presidential election, Rise and Resist exemplifies the spirit of nonviolent direct action, standing courageously against threats to democracy, civil liberties, and equality. Their innovative protests — from vigils at Rikers Island to Truth Tuesdays at Fox News headquarters to rallies at MTA Headquarters — have energized grassroots movements locally and nationally.

The event drew a wide array of elected officials and Broadway Democrats-endorsed candidates, underscoring Broadway Democrats' pivotal role in

New York's progressive political landscape, including:

- Congressman Jerry Nadler
- Comptroller Brad Lander (mayoral candidate)
- Assembly Member Micah Lasher
- Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg (candidate for re-election)
- State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal (candidate for Manhattan Borough President)
- City Council Member Shaun Abreu (candidate for re-election)
- City Council Member Gale Brewer
- Assembly Member Alex Bores
- Former Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell
- Numerous judicial candidates, district leaders, and community members

"Today we celebrate not just a historic past but a renewed call to action for the next fifty years," said Mary Peppito, President, Broadway Democrats. "Broadway Democrats has been a home for activism, advocacy, and community leadership. We are proud to honor those who embody the courage and commitment needed to continue that work."

The Broadway Democrats has been supporting democracy since 1975 and serves as the official Democratic club for Manhattan's Morningside Heights and Manhattan Valley representing the northern third of the 69th Assembly District. We mobilize our members to take action through protests, calls, texts, letter-writing campaigns, postcards, community outreach, door-to-door engagement, and community events to foster democratic participation and advance progressive causes.

Photos below!



Broadway Democrats 50th Anniversary

Spring Fling Gala April 27, 2025



All photos by [Diane Bondareff Photography](#)



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

May 2025

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