
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING: ELECTION RECAP

Election Day is November 8.

Please join us two days *after* Election Day for an online conversation with our electeds (list in formation), to assess the results and what they mean for our city, our state, and our country.

Thursday, Nov. 10 (online)

Club Business 7:30 pm

Forum 8:00 pm

register at

bit.ly/broadwaydems-november-club-meeting

for more information, email DistrictLeaders@BroadwayDemocrats.org

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* * GOTV! * *

From Our District Leaders

Curtis Arluck and Paula Diamond Román

How You Can Help Elect Democrats!

Join us in covering the Early Voting site at 112th and Broadway on Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6. Polls are open from 9 AM to 5 PM, and we will cover this site for as many hours as we have volunteers.

Distribute a Dear Neighbor Letter in your building (see below).

Put up Get Out the Vote Hall Cards in your building, on your block, and in neighboring blocks where we don't have coverage.

Join us on Election Day at PS 165 on West 109th. We will be covering this large poll site all day, and also dispatching people to nearby markets and subway stops.

Email districtleaders@broadwaydemocrats.org to help out with any of these activities. We need you! Democracy needs you!

✍

<http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org>

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

✍

How to be a Happy Warrior

Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell

In his 1807 poem "The Character of the Happy Warrior," William Wordsworth describes a man who, driven by conviction and compassion, forges forward through trial and turbulence to accomplish his goals.

*Where what he most doth value must be won
Whom neither shape or danger can dismay...
[He] finds comfort in himself and in his cause
And, while the mortal mist is gathering, draws
His breath in confidence of Heaven's applause:
This is the happy Warrior; this is he
That every man in arms should wish to be.*

In 2022, with the midterms barreling toward us, it's time for all of us to be "happy warriors."

In the cacophony of modern politics, it can be easy to be dismayed. Scary polls, divisive rhetoric, and misinformation on social media – all play a part in depressing our spirit and dampening our drive to fight back.

But what does William Wordsworth counsel? To "find comfort in ourselves and our cause."

Because the reason we're here isn't polling, or Facebook posts, or Discord. The reason Democrats across the country are feeling the pressure this season is because we are all standing up for vital causes we believe in.

We are standing up for reproductive freedom. With abortion under attack across the country, New York Democrats are using every tool we have to protect and preserve the right to health care in our state. As Kathy Hochul said in her debate last week, the only reason nothing changed in New York after the despicable *Dobbs* decision is because **she's** Governor, and not the other candidate.

We are standing up for democracy. Republican candidates for Governor, multiple congressional races, and dozens of state legislature races continue to advance lies about the 2020 election and sow doubt about the future. But our state legislature has passed, and the Governor signed, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York, prohibiting voter dilution, suppression, intimidation, deception or obstruction; we've restored the right to vote for those who were formerly incarcerated, and we've made

voting easier and safer by increasing access to absentee voting, early voting, and more.

We are standing up for diversity. Hate speech and threats of violence are still proliferating against many marginalized communities – this week, antisemitism has been particularly pronounced and troubling. This means it has never been more important to show up to bolster the forces of love, inclusion and acceptance.

So what do we do to stand up for our values?

- **Vote.** This one is obvious. Go to <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>, look up your early voting site, and go vote as soon as you can!
- **Tell your friends to vote** – even the non-political ones (especially the non-political ones!). Send a brief email (bcc!) reminding them that there's an important election in New York State, and they have just days left to make sure we hold strong against the storm. Let them know how they can vote (early, or on election day), and what causes are at stake that make it so important.
- **Leave it all on the line this week.** Now is the time to push ourselves to do a little more to help Democrats succeed. With any time you have in the next week, join a phone bank, hop on a bus, donate to a candidate, or volunteer to knock doors.

Being a happy warrior isn't about denying the troubled times. It's about finding strength in our convictions and lifting our spirits. Just a few weeks ago, when Governor Kathy Hochul made a surprise visit to the farmers' market by Morningside Park, I saw her speak with voters with the kindness and compassion of a true leader. When I talk to colleagues in the Assembly across the state, like my friend Assembly Member Carrie Woerner in Saratoga, I'm inspired by their commitment to tell the full truth, in all its complexities, to voters. And as I've spoken with women and LGBTQ candidates across the state and country this year, I've found hope in their clear-eyed vision for a world that is safe and accepting for all.

Democrats have heart. We have the facts, the votes, the passion, and the know-how. We just have to, as William Wordsworth says,

Look forward, persevering to the last,
From well to better, daily self-surpass.



Join the Broadway Democrats!

Dues: Seniors \$10/yr, All Others \$25/yr

Join on the website at
<http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/sign-up-to-join-the-club.html>

or

Send checks to: **Broadway Democrats**
P.O. Box 1099 Cathedral Station
New York, New York 10025

*contact Barbara Trelstad,
btrelstad@gmail.com
for more information*



Four Proposals on the Ballot (Psst – Turn it Over!)

Meika A. Mustrangi

There will be one state-wide proposal and three city-wide proposals on the back of your General Election ballot (make sure to turn it over!).

Proposal 1 would be the first environmental bond act enacted in New York in 26 years. EarthJustice and many other environmental organizations believe it's a good start and that, together with the federal Inflation Reduction Act, it will boost spending on environment-related projects.

Proposals 2, 3 and 4 are changes to the New York City Charter (our city's constitution). They were submitted by the Racial Justice Commission, convened by Mayor Bill de Blasio after the widespread protests against systemic racism and police violence in 2020.

Here are the official descriptions from the NYS Board of Elections and the NYC Racial Justice Commission:

Proposal 1 (state-wide): Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, 2022

To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the "Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022" authorizes the sale of state bonds up to four billion two hundred million dollars to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency, and clean energy projects.

The purpose of this proposal is to authorize the creation of state debt and the sale of state bonds in the amount of up to four billion two hundred million

dollars (\$4,200,000,000) for certain capital projects for the purpose of making environmental improvements that preserve, enhance, and restore New York's natural resources and reduce the impact of climate change. If approved, the proposal would allow the State to borrow up to \$4,200,000,000 to provide funding for capital projects for the following: restoration and flood risk reduction (at least \$1,100,000,000), open space land conservation and recreation (up to \$650,000,000), climate change mitigation (up to \$1,500,000,000), and water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure (at least \$650,000,000).

The proposal would also allow the State to refund the debt to take advantage of lower interest rates if the opportunity arises. To accomplish this, the proposal authorizes the State Comptroller to issue additional state bonds in sums up to or exceeding the amount of the bonds initially issued to refund, to advance refund, or otherwise to repay part or all of such bonds prior to the scheduled dates of their maturity.

Proposal 2 (city-wide): Amend the Charter to add a Statement of Values

The New York City Charter does not currently have a preamble. Adding a preamble would allow New Yorkers to adopt a vision and statement of foundational values intended to guide City government in fulfilling its duties. This proposal would amend the New York City Charter to:

- (1) add a preamble, which would be an introductory statement of values and vision aspiring toward “a just and equitable city for all” New Yorkers; and
- (2) include in the preamble a statement that the City must strive to remedy “past and continuing harms. and to reconstruct, revise, and reimagine our foundations, structures, institutions, and laws to promote justice and equity for all New Yorkers.”

Proposal 3 (city-wide): Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission

The Commission's second proposal is to create an Office of Racial Equity, require Racial Equity Plans, and form a Commission on Racial Equity. This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

- (1) Require citywide and agency-specific Racial Equity Plans every two years. The plans would include intended strategies and goals to improve racial equity and to reduce or eliminate racial disparities;
- (2) Establish an Office of Racial Equity and appoint a Chief Equity Officer to advance racial equity and coordinate the City's racial equity planning process.

The Office would support City agencies in improving access to City services and programs for those people and communities who have been negatively affected by previous policies or actions, and collect and report data related to equity; and

- (3) Establish a Commission on Racial Equity, appointed by City elected officials. In making appointments to this Commission, elected officials would be required to consider appointees who are representative of or have experience advocating for a diverse range of communities. The Commission would identify and propose priorities to inform the racial equity planning process and review agency and citywide Racial Equity Plans.

Proposal 4 (city-wide): Measure the True Cost of Living

This proposal would amend the City Charter to require the City to create a True Cost of Living measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs. This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

- (1) Require the City to create a “true cost of living” measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs, including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other necessary costs, and without considering public, private, or informal assistance, in order to inform programmatic and policy decisions; and
- (2) Require the City government to report annually on the “true cost of living” measure.

More information on all four proposals can be found on the BOE and the RJC websites: www.elections.ny.gov/2022BallotProposal.html and <https://racialjustice.cityofnewyork.us/ballot/>.



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.



The “Lesser of Two Evils” Myth

Richard Siegel, Vice President

A friend was explaining why some younger voters, many of whom have faced obstacles to full success, were expressing a reluctance to vote. Their reason was they were tired of voting for “the lesser

of two evils.” In this article I’d like to de-bunk that thought and re-frame the question.

Especially since the election of 2000, folks have been saying that both major parties are similar, and neither represents the true needs of the American people. Ralph Nader’s campaign got may progressive liberals to believe that—and the country ended up with George W. Bush as President.

We all want instant gratification. However, most of us and most institutions do not transform overnight. Change is almost always incremental. When it comes to social policy, most programs slowly expand and provide better benefits over time. Medicare and Medicaid today are much more extensive and provide more coverage now than when they were created in the 1960s.

Also, big change is scary to most folks. Remember – it took several years before the majority of Americans stated they were happy with the Affordable Care Act. That piece of legislation did more to enhance health care coverage and some health care equity than anything since the 1960’s.

The *Dobbs* decision that overturned *Roe v Wade* was the culmination of **fifty years** of hard work by a dedicated minority of Americans. Significant effort is needed, and consistent voting is needed to advance a progressive, non-racist agenda.

It is okay to be frustrated that the Biden administration (or any administration) has not produced all the change that we wanted thus far. However, the real question is, was any progress made towards our goals? Baby steps count, even though it means things are moving more slowly than we want. The second major question is, which candidate or party is committed to making change that will help me? Which might hurt me? We have seen how dangerous Trump was, and even how dangerous Bush was to the goals of ending income inequality, expanding the rights of disadvantaged people and communities and reigning in excessive force in policing.

So please ask all you know to re-frame the question when deciding whether or not to vote. Creating change is a journey; it’s a marathon, not a sprint. And the alternatives are clear—do we move forward or do we move backwards in terms of income inequality, social justice, climate change and even democracy itself? It is always easier to complain than it is to be a part of the solution—however long that takes.



Lisa Tait and Richard Siegel take a break from canvassing for Josh Riley in New Kingston (NY 19) last weekend.

28 is Great!

Kathleen Blute

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) states: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” Congress passed the federal Amendment in 1972. It needed 38 states to be ratified as part of the Constitution. On January 27, 2020, the Amendment satisfied all requirements listed in Article V of the Constitution to become the 28th Amendment.

In the Preamble, there was a time limit. Congress has the right to pass new legislation, which would take out this time limit. The House passed that bill. The Senate needs to act. This is SJ Res 1/HJ Res 17.

There is a movement by the ERA Coalition (eracoalition.org) to request that Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer bring SJ Res1/HJ Res 17 before the Senate for a floor vote after the midterm elections. The Broadway Democrats passed a resolution to this effect and are sending a letter to him. You can also contact the Majority Leader and urge him to bring SJ Res 1/HJ Res 17 to a Senate floor vote after the midterms.

By Phone: at 202-224-6542

By Email: Justine_Revelle@schumer.senate.gov, Bre_Sonnier-Thompson@schumer.senate.gov

Please ask your friends to also contact Schumer’s office. You need not be a New York resident to contact him about this issue.

To Help All Children Read, First do the Math (Redux)

Susan Crawford

For our September forum Peter Flom convened an excellent panel on disabilities and the legal struggles to have them properly addressed in New York City and State. In New York City's schools, the largest single component of the disability community are struggling and dyslexic readers. Below is a link to an article I wrote for Gotham Gazette more than a decade ago describing the magnitude of the problem, and what needed to be done. Since then ... crickets.

We now have a dyslexic mayor, a Schools Chancellor who has expressed a commitment to addressing the problem, and a burgeoning national focus on "the science of reading" in early grades, in place of the guessing at words that has prevailed for decades under the rubric of "whole language" reading instruction. Let's hope full literacy will finally be extended to all students!

<https://www.gothamgazette.com/education/842-to-help-all-children-read-first-do-the-math>

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We Want to Hear What You Have to Say!

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

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

Save these dates!



December Holiday Party!

Sunday, December 11
Location and time
to be announced

Thursday, December 1
at Cathedral Park Towers
"An Intergenerational
Conversation"

details to come

☞

Next Two Pages:

A "Dear Neighbor" letter you can use

Just print these pages (double-sided), sign at the bottom, and make as many copies as you need to remind your neighbors to VOTE!

*****(This is a sample Dear Neighbor Letter. Updated versions (some shorter) will be distributed later in the week by our District Leaders- please check your email)*****

Dear Neighbors,

I'm writing today to remind you how important it is to vote in this year's gubernatorial race. This year the polls are uncomfortably close. There are several reasons we're asking you to vote to re-elect Kathy Hochul.

The first and clearest reason to vote for Gov. Hochul is what she has already accomplished during her brief tenure. In the fourteen months Gov. Hochul has been in office, she has demonstrated her commitment to fight gun violence by **signing legislation raised the minimum age to purchase assault weapons in New York to twenty-one**. She has shown her commitment to a **woman's right to choose** by putting in place new protections ensuring access to abortion will remain open in New York. She has shown a commitment to our children's future by **authoring an agenda to aggressively respond to the dangers presented by climate change and protect New York's natural environment**.

The second reason to vote for Gov. Hochul is to show that you understand that Republican candidates across the country are lying about crime and bail reform. The purpose of bail is to ensure that a defendant shows up for their court appearances, not to force a person who is presumed innocent to start their prison sentence. The 2019 bail reform bill simply added consideration of the financial situation of the defendant. A 2021 study by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government found that jurisdictions, including New York, that instituted bail reform had no statistically significant increases in rearrests on new charges by and no increase in violent felony charges against persons on pretrial release.

The third and scariest reason is that it is clear that Gov. Hochul's Republican opponent, Rep. Lee Zeldin, is a fiscal and social conservative, was an early, enthusiastic defender of former President Trump, and will be an unacceptable choice to lead New York. Zeldin insisted for weeks that the election was illegitimate. Then, on January 6, 2021, Zeldin objected to the official certification of the results of the 2020 presidential election in Congress, voting against certification of Arizona's and Pennsylvania's electoral votes. Zeldin has opposed the gun control bill, NY SAFE Act. Zeldin joined a "friend of the court" brief demanding that the U.S. Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade* and has announced he will appoint a state health commissioner who is opposed to abortion.

New York City Democrats must turn out in **massive** numbers to reject the efforts of Republicans to drag this country back in a direction the American people resoundingly rejected in 2020. Please make a plan to vote; please make sure you and as many of your family, friends and neighbors as possible vote! Thank you for reading this note, and thank you for supporting Governor Kathy Hochul.

Sincerely,

Your Neighbor

P.S. **Early voting** – going on **now** – is an excellent option. Typically, your early vote location is not the same as your Election Day poll site. To confirm your early voting location and the times/dates it's open, visit findmypollsite.vote.nyc. If you prefer to vote on **Election Day** itself, poll sites will be open on Tuesday, November 8th from 6am to 9pm. To find your poll site, visit findmypollsite.vote.nyc.

Some Reasons Why Lee Zeldin is *Wrong* for New York

- Zeldin opposed the Biden Administration's Private Sector Vaccine Mandate, New York State's Excelsior Passport for vaccine, and making the COVID vaccine mandatory.
- Zeldin supported the religious exemption for vaccines and the early unmasking of schoolkids.
- Zeldin participated in 2020 campaign rallies without wearing a mask or adhering to social distancing.
- Zeldin criticized Stony Brook University Hospital for firing employees who declined to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Zeldin opposes mask mandates and COVID-19 vaccine mandates for schoolchildren.
- Zeldin opposes eliminating "common core" and teaching "critical race theory."
- Zeldin amended to the Student Success Act to allow states to opt out of Common Core.
- Zeldin demands the removal of duly elected Manhattan D.A. Bragg.
- Zeldin opposed bail reform and demands its reversal, falsely arguing it has cause crime to go up.
- Zeldin was absent for the vote on the NY SAFE Act (a gun control bill) but said he would have voted against it.
- Zeldin supported Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey and the criminal prosecution of former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe; and called for creating a special counsel investigation into the FBI and the Department of Justice regarding their investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 elections.
- Zeldin defended Trump during his first impeachment hearings.
- Zeldin insisted for weeks that the election was illegitimate because state officials changed election rules to enable voting during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Zeldin voted against certification of Arizona's and Pennsylvania's electoral-college votes.
- On January 6, 2021, Zeldin objected to the official certification of the results of the 2020 presidential election in Congress.
- Zeldin voted against the Marriage Equality Act.
- Zeldin co-sponsored the First Amendment Defense Act which would *protect* discrimination against same-sex couples.
- Zeldin voted for the Respect for Marriage Act, which would codify marriage as between a man and a woman.
- Zeldin co-sponsored the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would prohibit abortions in cases where the fetus's probable age is 20 weeks or more, with criminal penalties on doctors who violated the ban.
- Zeldin voted for the Defund Planned Parenthood Act to defund the nonprofit organization unless they agreed not to provide abortion services.
- Zeldin joined a "friend of the court" brief demanding that the U.S. Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*.
- Zeldin would appoint a health commissioner who was opposed to abortion.
- Zeldin voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).
- Zeldin voted against the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- Zeldin voted against the New York Dream Act.
- Zeldin opposed the Paris Climate Agreement – what would he do to New York's environment if elected governor?