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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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## Engaging in Democracy: Let's Understand the Assignment!

**Thursday, October 10, 2024**

**7:00 pm Club Business**

**7:30 Forum**

Join Broadway Democrats to learn what **you** can do to save our democracy! Hear from representatives from the Democratic Victory 2024 Campaign Center, Vote Blue NYC, New York for Harris/Walz, Swing Left, and the ERA/Proposition 1 initiative. This is your chance to learn how you can make a difference and **help lead us to victory** in this crucial election season.

During Club Business, eligible club members will cast their votes on **Proposals 1-6**. You must have attended one out of the last nine meetings and be up to date on your dues. See later in this issue, and sign up at [bit.ly/BwayDemsEmails](https://bit.ly/BwayDemsEmails), to get the latest newsletter to familiarize yourself with these proposals.

**Your participation is more vital than ever—  
together, we can shape the future!**

Register for Zoom at [bit.ly/2024octforum](https://bit.ly/2024octforum)



for more information: [bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com](mailto:bwaydemsdistrictleaders@gmail.com)

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Volume 49, Issue 7

October 2024

## Only a Few Weeks Left!

Come by our **Presidential Campaign Center**, run jointly by Three Parks Independent Democrats and Broadway Democrats.

Located at **2742 Broadway at West 105th Street** (next door to Silver Moon Bakery), the Center is headquarters for all campaign activities throughout the election season. Hours are **Tuesday through Sunday, from noon to early evening.**

We're running **phone banks, postcard writing, canvassing trips** to key swing districts, and *lots* of other important activities. [Sign up here \(https://bit.ly/DemsWin2024\)](https://bit.ly/DemsWin2024) to volunteer, or drop by the Campaign Center.

We also have a wide variety of campaign materials available, including a large selection of buttons—some serious, some funny, and all a great way to show your support for Harris / Walz and the rest of the Democratic ticket.

Remember, the Campaign Center is **funded entirely by your contributions**. With your generous support, we'll organize a full slate of high-powered, effective campaign activities to help secure victory on Election Day!



# Important Dates!

The **Voter Registration Deadline** is Saturday, October 26 in person at the Board of Elections or postmarked!

The **Application for Early Mail or Absentee Ballot Deadline** is Saturday, October 26. The application is available on-line [here](#).

The **Early Voting Period** is Saturday, October 26 to Sunday, November 3. Weekdays from 8am to 8pm; weekends from 8am to 5pm. Find your Early Voting Poll Site [here](#).

**ELECTION DAY** is Tuesday, November 5. Polls are open from 6am to 9pm. Find your Election Day Poll Site [here](#).

The **Absentee Ballot Deadline** is also Tuesday, November 5 in-person at the Board of Elections or postmarked. You can also drop your absentee ballot at any Early Voting site or Election Day site in Manhattan.

# V.P. Debate Watch Party

## Tuesday Oct. 1 at Abigail's



More than a hundred of us gathered at Abigail's Restaurant (2672 Broadway, at W. 102nd) to watch and cheer as Tim Walz faced off against J.D. Vance in what may be the final debate of this campaign. Thanks, Abigail's!

## Endorsement Vote – Ballot Proposals 1-6

At our meeting on October 10, eligible club members will be able to vote on endorsements for **Ballot Proposals 1-6**. See the following pages for more information, or go to <https://council.nyc.gov/2024-ballot-proposals/>.

To vote on Club endorsements, you must have attended one of the last nine Club meetings and be up-to-date on your dues.

You can pay your dues online here:

[https://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/  
pay-your-annual-dues.html](https://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/pay-your-annual-dues.html)

## 2024 General Election Ballot Proposals

### **PROPOSAL 1, an Amendment: Amendment to Protect Against Unequal Treatment (“New York State Equal Right Amendment”)**

This proposal would protect against unequal treatment based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity and pregnancy. It also protects against unequal treatment based on reproductive healthcare and autonomy. A "YES" vote puts these protections in the New York State Constitution. A "NO" vote leaves these protections out of the State Constitution.

### **PROPOSAL 2, a Question: Cleaning Public Property**

This proposal would amend the City Charter to expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation’s power to clean streets and other City property and require disposal of waste in containers. Voting “Yes” will expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation’s power to clean streets and other City property and require disposal of waste in containers. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

### **PROPOSAL 3, a Question: Additional Estimates of the Cost of Proposed Laws and Updates to Budget Deadlines**

This proposal would amend the City Charter to require fiscal analysis from the Council before hearings and votes on laws, authorize fiscal analysis from the Mayor, and update budget deadlines. Voting “Yes” would amend the City Charter to require additional fiscal analysis prior to hearings and votes on local laws, and update budget deadlines. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

### **PROPOSAL 4, a Question: More Notice and Time Before Votes on Public Safety Legislation**

This proposal would require additional public notice and time before the City Council votes on laws respecting the public safety operations of the Police, Correction, or Fire Departments. Voting “Yes” will require additional notice and time before the Council votes on laws respecting public safety operations of the Police, Correction, or Fire Departments. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

### **PROPOSAL 5, a Question: Capital Planning**

This proposal would amend the City Charter to require more detail in the annual assessment of City facilities, mandate that facility needs inform capital planning, and update capital planning deadlines. Voting “Yes” would require more detail when assessing maintenance needs of City facilities, mandate that facility needs inform capital planning, and update capital planning deadlines. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

### **PROPOSAL 6, a Question: Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBES), Film Permits and Archive Review Boards**

This proposal would amend the City Charter to establish the Chief Business Diversity Officer (CBDO), authorize the Mayor to designate the office that issues film permits, and combine archive boards. Voting “Yes” would establish the CBDO to support MWBEs, authorize the Mayor to designate the office that issues film permits, and combine two boards. Voting “No” leaves laws unchanged.

#### **Additional Information\*:**

What the City Council wants you to know about 2024 General Election ballot proposals

[2024 NYC General Election Ballot Proposals](#)

New Yorkers for Equal Rights

[Prop 1 - One Pager Print at Home.pdf](#)

No Power Grab NYC

[Home - Defend Democracy! No Power Grab, NYC!](#)

Errol Lewis on NY1

[No Power Grab NYC members talk push to reject some ballot proposals](#)

\*The additional information has been assembled by Paula Diamond Román and may not reflect the opinions of other members of the Broadway Democrats.

## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

This is the last Broadway Democrats newsletter published before the election that will decide whether the United States will continue as a democracy and the countries of the world will be able to continue the fight against authoritarian rule. The election is very tight, and even though Trump has continued to demonstrate his manifest unfitness for the White House or for any residence outside of a prison cell, the polls are tightening again, and there is little reason to believe that Kamala Harris has any kind of lead in the Electoral College.

So what can I say, and what can we do?

Three observations: one practical, one issue oriented, and one personal, from a surprising source:

1) First, and most important, *Do Something*, as Michelle Obama says. This newsletter and many online sites are full of news of buses to board, phone calls to make, postcards to write, storefronts and tables to volunteer at. It is highly likely that all of the swing districts will be decided by fewer than five votes per precinct; in many cases it will be fewer than one vote per precinct. And while there are fewer than ten swing states in the Presidential race, there are three times that number of Senate States and House Districts that are very, very, close. Many of them are within an easy car, bus, or train ride from your home, and all are within a few easy clicks of your computer or phone. When you're talking about one vote per precinct, you can see how the actions of just you and your family and friends can make the difference. Don't just sit there, *Do Something!*

2) The public is with Harris and the Democrats on most major issues, including the right to make your own reproductive, health care, and who-you love-choices. On one tricky issue, immigration and the border, the Democrats have the winning slogan: they have a bipartisan plan, and Trump and the Republicans killed it. Plus, all the Republicans do is shriek about the border and demean immigrants; they have no constructive plan at all. But on one issue, we are still stymied. Even though by almost all economic measures: unemployment/job creation, the deficit, the stock market, rebuilding our infrastructure, this economy is far better than it was under Trump, and is continuing to get better, people remember the low inflation under Trump (which was no better than it was under Obama), and seem to think that he was an effective manager of the economy. We can all write paragraphs about why

this isn't so, but we need a sentence or two. Suggestions?

3) Here are wise words from an unlikely source, endorsing Kamala Harris:

Trump's first term "was the worst thing that ever happened to my dad, to my family, and to our nation's modern history....The consequences will only be more severe—and irreversible—a second time around. Thanks to the extremist Supreme Court he stacked, Trump would take office with full immunity: no checks on his power whatsoever. If the President isn't going to be subject to the law like every other citizen, which remains incomprehensible to me, then our President had better have a moral compass."

Caroline Giuliani



## The Supreme Court's New Term

Luis Román

The United States Supreme Court is one of the most consequential institutions in American life. Donald Trump's recent additions to the Court may prove to be the most far-reaching achievement of his presidency. Within the past three years, the Court has issued numerous decisions overturning decades-old precedents, including *Roe v. Wade*, that represent overwhelming change to our society.

The Supreme Court's new term begins, as it always does, on the first Monday in October – next Monday – and this year promises a new set of cases that will have substantial consequences for the nation. The Brennan Center for Justice recently hosted a forum looking at the Court's new term and some of the cases that will shape it.

### *Gender-Affirming Care*

The Tennessee and Kentucky legislatures passed bans on gender-affirming care for people under 18 years of age in 2023, including prohibitions on gender transition surgery and hormone therapy. Plaintiffs in each state challenged the laws, supported by the ACLU. The Biden administration joined the plaintiffs, arguing that the laws violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. After a trial court partially found in favor of the plaintiffs and Court of Appeals overturned that decision, ultimately bringing the case before the Supreme Court. One of the critical questions being raised is whether laws affecting fundamental rights should be given the strictest level of scrutiny since a



lower level of scrutiny makes it more likely the states will prevail.

### *“Ghost guns”*

“Ghost guns” are firearms that can be purchased online, unassembled (like Ikea furniture). The guns have no serial numbers, making them impossible for law enforcement to trace. Congress has been unable to pass any laws regulating the sale of these weapons. In 2022, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) issued a rule regulating the sale of these ghost guns, which was challenged in federal court by gun manufacturers and gun sellers. A District Court judge in Texas barred the ATF from enforcing the rule anywhere in the United States, deciding that the rule was inconsistent with federal gun laws. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court’s ruling. The Supreme Court granted the Biden administration’s request to hear an appeal of that ruling, which it will do this term.

While this case does not involve the Second Amendment, it does touch upon another important dispute – the amount of deference judges must give to federal agencies when reviewing rules that the agencies issue. Last year, the Supreme Court overturned a 40-year-old precedent known as the *Chevron* doctrine, a precedent requiring judges to show deference to agencies’ reasonable interpretations of laws when Congress had not specifically addressed the issue in question. The Court’s decision rejected that principle. This decision has already been cited by a number of Courts in invalidating rules promulgated by multiple federal agencies.

### *Voting Rights*

As in any presidential election year, voting rights are poised to be a hotbed of activity for the Supreme Court. Last year, the Court allowed Arizona to enforce part of a new law, allowing the state to require people newly registering to vote to show proof of U.S. citizenship before being allowed to register. (Most states simply require a person to swear that they are citizens when they register.) The Supreme Court rejected another portion of the law that would have required voters, some who had been voting legally for decades, to show proof of citizenship before they would be allowed to vote again. Many conservative states have been attempting to pass laws designed to suppress the vote among minorities, younger voters and groups more likely to vote for Democrats. We will see if the Court has to deal with any of these laws before the general election.

In addition to the previously mentioned cases, abortion restrictions are expected to remain a hot

topic for the Court, especially following the *Dobbs* decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Furthermore, the Court is likely to address ongoing attempts by former President Trump to evade accountability for his many legal travails, a cause that was greatly aided earlier this year by the Court’s remarkable decision granting the President legal immunity for “official acts,” a category the Court will likely spend considerable time defining in the near future.

The conservative Supreme Court majority has made clear that it is willing to reject long-held precedents in favor of their originalist philosophy. The upcoming term could see the Court continue this reckless course, which could result in major reforms for the Court in the near future.

*DR*

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



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

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

*DR*

**A guide to key economic policy differences between Harris & Trump –  
or what I try to say to voters when they tell me they’re “undecided”**

**by Club President Mary Peppito**

For the past several months I’ve been knocking on voters’ doors in Long Island and Pennsylvania for Democratic candidates. It’s been helpful to know some key differences between the candidates when talking with the occasional low-information, non-committal or “undecided” voter. I thought it might be helpful to share a comparison of the candidates’ stances on key economic issues, compiled from a few sources by friend and fellow Broadway Democrat Melissa Bilski, since “Trump’s economic policy” is a reason that I often hear from those who support him. As Paul Krugman has recently noted, Trumponomics will likely mean Trumpflation.

**The Candidates’ Economic Plans**

| <b>Trump / Vance</b>   | <b>Harris / Walz</b>   |
|--|--|
| Cut corporate <b>taxes from the already historic low of 21% to 15-20%</b> ; extend 2017 tax rates that favored the top 1%  | Maintain Individual tax breaks for the 97% of Americans earning less than \$400K, reinstate \$3600 child tax credit & reinstate SALT tax deduction; tax credit for newborns & first time home buyers   |
| Keep historically low capital gains tax the same   | Raise capital gains tax from 22.4% to 33%  |
| Eliminate ACA (Obamacare) tax subsidies  | Permanently extend ACA tax subsidies   |
| Eliminate tax on Social Security benefits & service industry tips (which may include corporate “bonuses,” but make cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.   | Eliminate tax on Social Security benefits & service industry tips; reduce estate and gift tax exemptions and standard deductions to pre-2018; Impose a wealth tax of 25% for those earning more than \$100 million   |
| Privatize Medicare and reduce payments to hospitals for outpatient care; reduce Medicare Advantage payments to insurers; reduce Medicaid spending and implement work requirements.   | Raise the \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket Medicare; extend number of drugs subject to new Medicare price negotiations; extend Medicare inflation cap to private-sector drugs; work with states to cancel \$7 billion in medical debt for 3 million eligible Americans; extend the insulin price cap to privately insured individuals. |
| Give tax breaks for oil & gas drilling; reduce green energy tax incentives in 2022 Inflation Reduction act; eliminate \$7,500 EV tax credit; reduce fuel efficiency requirements; eliminate regulations targeting energy-inefficient appliances. | Extend EV incentives to commercial transportation.   |
| Impose 60% tariffs on Chinese goods  | Target tariffs at industry/geopolitical rivals including Chinese tech; support small businesses with a \$50,000 tax credit   |
| Eliminate reforms on consumer fees and other Consumer Financial Protection Bureau actions; challenge pending bank regulations; cut regulations across the board; eliminating political independence of Federal Reserve and civil servants        | Raise federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour; expand student debt relief; ban food industry price-gouging; maintain independence of Federal Reserve and other institutions   |

**Expert opinions on the effects of each Plan:**

“The economy under Trump would grow more slowly and will suffer higher inflation and interest rates,” Mark Zandi, Chief Economist at Moody’s, said. In a Trump presidency, “the hit to growth from tariffs and tighter immigration policy would outweigh “the positive effects of tax cuts,” Goldman Sachs wrote in a report in early September. Trump’s plans would increase the deficit by \$4.6T, compared to Harris’s roughly \$2.1T increase. Further, the Trump Tariffs could cost American consumers \$2600 per year! Overall, the economy would suffer and we’d lose 2.1 million jobs by 2028, Moody’s says. Clearly, **Trumponomics will lead to Trumpflation!**

**Vote Harris / Walz!**





(with apologies to Shepard Fairey)

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

## October 2024

FIRST  
CLASS

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