
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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President's Corner

Voter Disenfranchisement IS the Republican Playbook

Their Plan to Keep a Majority in Congress

Mary Peppito

In several states with extensive documented histories of discriminating against Black voters, Republicans have updated their disenfranchisement techniques to sheer defiance of federal court decisions. In Alabama, Louisiana, and Georgia – all of which have well-known histories of deterring Black voters by instituting poll taxes, literacy tests, voter challenges and violence – the 2023 playbook is redistricting to dilute Black voting power: redrawing congressional district lines to eliminate Black-majority congressional seat districts by stuffing Black voters into majority-white districts, otherwise known as “cracking and packing.”

Thus, when Alabama Republicans were handed a surprising defeat last year by the Supreme Court striking down their “cracked & packed” redistricting maps that eliminated a congressional seat in a transparent effort to keep Black voters from electing a candidate of their choice, they were undeterred. In a shocking act of defiance, the Republican-controlled Alabama legislature simply ignored the US Supreme Court and drew another set of similar maps to deny a seat to Black voters.

When these new maps were challenged, the Alabama Republicans *conceded* the purpose behind them but still argued to a three-judge panel of the federal Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals that the unfair gerrymandered maps should stay in place for the 2024 elections. Fortunately, the panel (two Trump appointees and one Reagan appointee) lambasted the legislature’s brazen defiance.

The Republican legislature in neighboring Louisiana also eliminated a seat that likely would have gone to a Black representative. Louisiana keeps fighting to keep the unconstitutional maps in place, in similar defiance of the high Court.

Similarly, in Georgia, the Republican-controlled legislature drew maps in 2021 to dilute the voting power of the Black electorate. A Georgia state court allowed those maps to remain in place for the 2022

election; however, a challenge to them is set to go to trial.

Finally, not to be outdone, the Republican-controlled Wisconsin legislature is threatening to impeach the newest member of that state’s Supreme Court – before she even decides a single case – to prevent the formation of a majority on the court to throw out the legislature’s gerrymandered maps.

Blatant disregard of voters, their choices, laws, and even US Supreme Court orders *is* the Republican brand. It is anti-democratic and dishonest, but unsurprising coming from those who admire an ex-president who has a particular disdain for truth and disregard for voter enfranchisement. It is up to us to keep up this fight and win back Congress. And we will need to be vigilant and have all hands on deck for that fight.



District Leaders' Report

November 2023 Elections: Calm Before The Storm

Curtis Arluck

Unlike in June, when our polls didn’t open at all, they will open for the November 7 General Election. But there won’t be much on the ballot. All we’ll see are unopposed Judicial candidates, including the outstanding Lyle Frank, Leslie Stroth and Phaedra Perry. (Leslie is our neighbor with ten years of experience on the bench and a great record of public service; Lyle issued the landmark ruling blocking the City’s attempts to force retirees into Medicare Advantage plans.) Our esteemed City Council Member Shaun Abreu will also be on the ballot; I’m not sure whether he has no serious opponent or no opponent at all. It looks like there are two fairly minor ballot proposals; we’ll get you info on those next month. But it won’t be much of a respite: based on the current calendar, petitioning for President could begin in January and for Federal and State legislative offices in February.



In Memoriam: Cynthia Doty

Our beloved District Leader Cynthia Doty passed away after a brief illness. We worked with Cynthia in every Broadway/Three Parks Democrats Presidential storefront going back to 1984. She ran Assemblyman Ed Sullivan's district office for many years, and was an indispensable ally at the Manhattan Board of Elections. Kind, funny, smart, a true champion of progressive causes locally and nationally, she leaves a void that will not be easy to fill. A memorial service will be held October 1; see details below. We miss you, Cynthia!

Join Us for a Tribute to **Cynthia L. Doty**

Sunday, Oct. 1 at 4:00 PM
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Amsterdam Ave. and W. 99th Street
Reception to follow



Three Parks Independent Democrats celebrates the life of our long-time District Leader and beloved friend, Cynthia L. Doty, who died after a brief illness on July 17. A tireless, gracious, and wise political and community organizer, and the Deputy Chief Clerk of the New York County Board of Elections, she is sorely missed by her friends and colleagues. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family. Please join us on Oct. 1 to celebrate Cynthia's life.

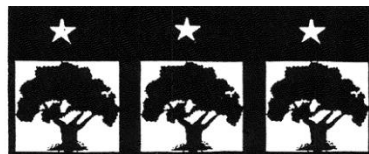
You may leave your memories of Cynthia on [Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com).

Cynthia's family requests that donations be made to the

[Riverside Park Conservancy](https://www.riversideparkconservancy.org)

475 Riverside Drive, Suite #455

New York, NY 10115



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Protecting voter Registration: An Assessment of Voter Purge Policies in Ten States

A Webinar on National Voter Registration Day, September 19

WEBINAR

Tuesday, September 19, 2023
at 10 AM ET

Protecting Voter Registration:

An Assessment of
Voter Purge Policies
in Ten States



Between the 2020 and 2022 general elections, states reported removing over 19 million voters from their registration rolls. Many of these removals were for routine reasons, but some eligible voters were wrongly purged based on flawed grounds like “inactivity” that disproportionately target Black and Brown voters.

Think-tank Dēmos [recently released a report](#) evaluating voter removal practices in ten different states. It analyzes purge practices, the safeguards in place to protect voters from disenfranchisement, and accessibility and transparency of voter data. Join this webinar on National Voter Registration Day to hear about strategies to protect and expand access to voter registration.

Tuesday, September 19, at 10am

RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/DemosRSVP>



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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

September 2023

FIRST

CLASS

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

