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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

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

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## 2024 Manhattan Valley Town Hall

*Invited:*

Congressman Adriano Espaillat (13th District)\*

State Senator Cordell Cleare (30th District)

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine

Councilmember Shaun Abreu (7th District)\*

NYPD Deputy Inspector Noreen Lazarus (24th Precinct)\*

Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District\*

Community Board 7

*\*Confirmed*

## Thursday, September 12

**6:45pm - Sign-in/Refreshments**

**7:00pm – Election Talk**

**7:30 – Town Hall**

Speakers will make brief presentations,  
followed by an in-depth question and answer session.

Register at <https://bit.ly/2024sepforum>



**Cathedral Parkway Towers**

**125 West 109th Street**

**(Between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues)**

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

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Volume 49, Issue 6

September 2024

## Welcome to Our Campaign Center on Broadway!



The Three Parks Independent Democrats and Broadway Democrats are excited to announce the opening of our **Presidential Campaign Center** this weekend!

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

Visit the Campaign Center to get involved! Learn about our plans for **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.

We'll 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.

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!



## President's Corner

Mary Peppito

### Let's Flip Four Congressional Seats in NY State and Flip Congress Blue!

"Do Something!," Michelle Obama exhorted us during her amazing DNC 2024 speech. "If we see a mountain in front of us, we don't expect there to be an escalator waiting to take us to the top? No. We put our heads down. We get to work. In America, we do something."

The battleground is right in our backyard and we can flip the House by winning a few NY congressional races in Long Island and the Hudson Valley. We are fighting to flip the seats we lost in 2022. As the NY Times recently dubbed it, New York is "the Democrats' blue state dilemma," at the "unlikely heart of the fight for control of the House of Representatives." <https://tinyurl.com/Blue-State-Dilemma>.

As others have noted, "New York is one of the most progressive states in the country with Democrats controlling every major state-elected position for decades. Yet, in 2022, New York managed to lose more House races than any other state." <https://tinyurl.com/Fullerton-NY>. We can flip the House majority by winning these seats alone.

The fight is up to us, and our progressive partner groups to flip these seats. The races in question target incumbent Republican Congress-members:

- **Cong. District 01** (Suffolk): Rep. Nick Lalota vs. **John Avlon [Biden -1]**
- **Cong. District 04** (Nassau): Rep. Anthony D'Esposito vs. **Laura Gillen [Biden +14.5]**
- **Cong. Dist. 17** (Westchester, Putnam, Rockland): Rep. Mike Lawler vs. former **Rep. Mondaire Jones**
- **Cong. District 19**: (Delaware, Greene, Columbia, Sullivan, Ulster) Rep. Marc Molinaro vs. **Josh Riley**
- **Cong. District 22**: (Madison, Onondaga, and parts of Cayuga, Cortland, and Oneida) Rep. **Brandon Williams** vs. NYS Sen. John Mannion **[Biden +11.4]**

Most of these New York congressional races are toss-ups where Biden won in 2020. And despite the first-term incumbent Republican Representatives' efforts to paint themselves as moderates, (Rep Lawler (NY 17), Marc Molinaro (NY19), D'Esposito (CD4), Williams (CD22) and Lakota (CD1), have all

endorsed Trump in 2024. And, despite ads like Mr. Molinaro's that now allege, "I believe health decisions should be between a woman and her doctor, not Washington," he has voted for a handful of bills that would limit abortion access. In Long Island, Laura Gillen is running for a toss-up seat against the Republican Anthony D'Esposito, a former police officer, in a diverse district that voted for Mr. Biden in 2020 by 14.5 points! We are knocking on doors and energizing those voters to win back these seats that were lost in 2022.

In CD1, [John Avlon](#), a former CNN commentator, in his campaign to defeat Representative Nick LaLota in Suffolk County, is fighting a seat rated, "likely republican" by cook political report, but has raised an equivalent amount of money as the incumbent, has incredible name recognition, and is running a pro-choice, centrist campaign that many believe has a real chance this year.

In Syracuse territory, CD22 (Onondaga, Cayuga, Madison, Cortland and Tomkins Counties), Democratic candidate John Mannion is running against Republican Rep. Brandon Williams, is the most likely to lose after redistricting [made his seat several points more Democratic](#).

So New York, Let's Do Something! Join us at our Broadway Democrats & Three Parks Independent Democratic Victory 2024 Campaign Center (opening soon on Broadway at 105th) to sign up for canvassing by car and bus, phone-banking, text-banking and writing cards and letters to voters. When we vote, we win! **Let's Win This!**



## Able Dems

Peter Flom

As a disabled person and advocate for people with disabilities (especially learning disabilities) I've long been upset by the lack of elected officials with disabilities. Last year, I helped organize a forum on disabilities for the club.

The disabled are a huge portion of our community and of the country. How big, exactly, depends on your precise definition of "disability" and is, in any case, hard to know because many disabled people mask our disabilities due to stigma, but estimates of 1 in 4 are not uncommon. It might be more. But very few elected officials identify as disabled. At the Federal level only 18 people out of 540 or so (House, Senate, POTUS, etc.) do. That's about 3 percent.

In addition, few local or national politicians not pay much attention to these issues. You can browse their websites and see nothing about the disabled. You can look at their staffs and see few people who have visible disabilities. They (and we) should hire people for their abilities, not their disabilities.

I'm pleased to note that we now have a group that is working to elect Democrats who are disabled and to protect accessible voting for all eligible voters. The group is Able Dems and their website is <https://www.abledems.org/>.

They are pretty new, so data is limited, but they do seem to find Democratic candidates with disabilities.



## YES! On NY Proposition 1

Kathleen Blute

### Protect Abortion and Our Freedoms

Be sure to tell people to flip the ballot and vote Yes on Prop 1, the New York Equal Rights Amendment!

At a moment in time when we are seeing state governments and courts ban abortion and roll back our rights, this amendment would embed explicit protections within our State constitution to protect our fundamental rights and reproductive freedoms.

This Fall we have the opportunity in New York State to make sure that no New Yorker can be discriminated against by the government regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, national origin, pregnancy status, disability status, or whether someone is LGBT.

For more information, and to donate, visit <https://www.nyequalrights.org>.



## AD 991A is a bill we should support

Peter Flom

I only heard about bill AD 991A because I saw a Facebook post by a hotel lobby, urging us to "get the facts" and claiming that this bill was anti-woman, anti-minority, anti-tourist and would bring about the end of western civilization (not the last, actually).

After laughing at the absurdity of getting facts from lobbyists, I decided to check it out. That our own councilperson, Shaun Abreu, was a cosponsor was a good sign. What does the bill do?

Here is what the summary page says:

This bill would require hotels to obtain a license in order to operate their business in the City. The application term would be two years, and there would be a license fee of \$200. Hotels would be required to maintain continuous front desk coverage and large hotels would be required to have continuous coverage by at least one security guard. All hotels would be required to maintain the cleanliness of each guest room. The licensee would be required to directly employ their core employees, subject to enumerated exceptions. Hotels that violate the license conditions would be subject to civil penalties.

Safe lobbies! Clean rooms! What a horror!

The full text of the bill is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/AD-119-Hotels>.



## Harris/Trump Debate Watch Party!

Tuesday, September 10 at 8:30 pm,  
Abigail's, 2672 Broadway (corner of W. 102)

Join us to cheer on Kamala Harris at the Broadway Democrats + Three Parks Independents Debate watching party at Abigail's Restaurant, 2672 Broadway at W. 102. The debate will start at 9pm and is slated to run for 90 minutes. Come on out, support a neighborhood eatery, and cheer on Kamala! Food and beverages will be available for purchase.



LET'S GO  
★ ★ ★ ★  
**DEMS!**  
RALLY TO MOBILIZE DEMOCRATIC VOTERS IN NYC  
FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 • 11AM**  
**AT VERDI SQUARE**  
BROADWAY, AMSTERDAM AVE. & W. 73 ST.  
NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATS

**Election workers are essential to our democracy.  
Interested in serving your community?  
Be an Election Hero –  
apply to be a poll worker today!**



**Now is the best time to apply to be a Poll Worker.** The Board of Elections kicked off their training season earlier this month and will have classes through **mid-October**. This season, **all** Poll Workers will be required to take a certification class before the Board of Elections can assign you to work at a Poll Site. **Apply at <https://pollworker.vote.nyc>**



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)

Membership

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.

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!

# The Broadway Democrats Newsletter

## September 2024

FIRST

CLASS

P.O. Box 1099  
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New York, NY 10025

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District Leaders:  
Curtis Arluck,  
Paula Diamond Román  
President: Mary Peppito  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED