

# **Democratic State Committee Report**

**By Daniel Marks Cohen**

Thank you! I am deeply grateful for the club's endorsement last week of my campaign for City Council. As you all know, I am seeking to succeed Mark Levine in the 7th district next year, who is term-limited and running for Manhattan Borough President. I was elected to the political office of State Committeeman for the 69th Assembly District in 2010 with Three Parks support, and reelected several times since then, including just last year. I am deeply gratified to have the club's overwhelming support again, this time for public office. Thank you so very much.

For nearly three decades I have been a member of Three Parks and I am a lifelong resident of the community, now for 50 years. I was recruited to the club shortly after I graduated college in 1992 by then-District Leader Phil Reed, who I had met on the street at a block party that summer. I would subsequently become Phil's treasurer on his successful Council campaign and also served as President of Three Parks for five years. Throughout the past 30 years I have connected with friends in the club as we celebrated our victories and mourned our losses, through storefronts, picnics and holiday parties. Through phone banks and postcards, letters and literature, palm cards and poll watching. And now with Zoom through the COVID pandemic. Through it all.

I grew up on West 99th Street in rent-regulated housing and attended PS 75 on 96th Street. I now live on West 110th Street with my wife and our son Caleb, who is 8 years old and

attends PS 452. As a proud New York City public-school graduate, and currently a public-school parent serving on the school PTA, I have seen firsthand the struggles our schools face and why tackling them is so critical.

Professionally I have spent the past decade working for affordable housing nonprofits, for almost the past seven years with the Housing Partnership. Working in affordable housing I have seen the urgency of the issue in the district and across the city. As a member of Community Board 9, I am working to create 200+ units of affordable housing and a community arts center in West Harlem and another 300+ units of senior housing in Manhattan Valley.

Balancing that need is making sure we are not overwhelmed by overdevelopment – we have seen the tall towers in Morningside Heights at JTS and UTS. There was a proposal recently to do the same on Broadway along 108th to 110th Streets, and I joined the effort to push back against that. We cannot allow huge projects to override the zoning changes we fought to achieve just a few years ago. We can balance our need for affordable housing while carefully managing the development in our neighborhood.

And as a Board Member of the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District, I know the importance of supporting local small businesses. I want to create a capital fund to help small companies start and restart as part of COVID-19 recovery, with targeted investment in minority & women-owned businesses.

Next year virtually the entire city government is changing – and new leadership must hold the

police accountable, advocate for structural change to foster racial equity and LGBTQ justice, and protect the most vulnerable among us. Giving everyone in our community space to thrive, however, means little without also committing to building a restorative criminal justice system with alternatives to incarceration that help people repair their lives. Closing Rikers was the first step towards that, but much more is to be done.

Ultimately, I believe that climate change is the existential threat we face as a city, a country and a planet. I am committed to making New York City the standard for responding to global warming, as it will touch on every aspect of our lives, housing, schools, transportation, everything. We cannot have climate justice without fundamental changes in the way we operate.

I am so very grateful for Three Parks' endorsement and I am humbled by your support. My website is [www.Cohen2021.com](http://www.Cohen2021.com) to learn more about the campaign, and I look forward working closely with the club over the weeks and months ahead. Thank you.