

# President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

Just when you think things can't get worse...they do. Just when you see a glimmer hope...it's gone. And just when you feel some control over your small corner of the world...it vanishes.

That's how I felt last week when the New York Court of Appeals declared that Democrats had violated the State Constitution and ordered a court-appointed expert to redraw the redistricting maps for the midterm elections.

For over a month, Three Parks has been gathering signatures of registered Democrats to ensure that TPID-endorsed candidates for Congress, statewide offices, state committee, and county committee get on the primary ballot in June. Petitioning is critical to getting on the ballot.

Spearheaded by District Leader Cynthia Doty, over 1800 signatures had been collected for Congressmembers Jerry Nadler and Adriano Espaillat, Senators Cordell Cleare and Robert Jackson, Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, state committee members Daniel Marks Cohen and Lynn Thomas,

judicial delegates and county committee members. The petitions were reviewed, collated, numbered, recorded on a spreadsheet and bound and delivered to the Board of Elections by midnight on Thursday, April 7, right on time.

Then, on Wednesday, April 27, I wondered whether all our work had gone for naught.

Coincidentally, Three Parks had its monthly board meeting that night. We listened to Cynthia Doty explain the situation. The primary for Governor, Lt. Governor, State Assembly, county committee members, and judicial delegates would still be on June 28. But the primary for congressional and state senate districts would most likely be postponed until August 23, to allow time for new maps to be drawn and for candidates to collect petitions to qualify for the ballot. The court had appointed Jonathan Cervas, a politically neutral special master, to draw the replacement lines. The decision was not subject to appeal.

No doubt about it: The court decision was a stinging blow to Democrats and threw this year's midterm elections into deep uncertainty. Not to mention the mass confusion of conducting two

primaries two months apart and understanding when to vote for whom.

Despite our feelings of disappointment and dismay, and not knowing *exactly* what to do, the board agreed that it was our responsibility to provide information and clarification to voters. We would continue tabling on Broadway to promote our endorsed candidates, get out the vote, and help voters understand the issues. For both primaries.

When the meeting ended, I felt better, knowing that Three Parks would be there, through the spring and summer, to help promote progressive candidates, to help people understand what was happening, and to instill the importance of voting. That's what Three Parks does!