

# State Committee Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

The State Democratic Party finally called another meeting in August, after one earlier in the month, in part due to the fact that we needed to gather after the Democratic National Convention to formally approve the Presidential electors, and consider three resolutions for consideration by the Progressive Caucus. It should be noted that the Caucus is now not only the main group submitting resolutions for consideration, it is frequently the ONLY group submitting resolutions, and lately, they are all getting passed overwhelmingly. Part of this is a new effort on the state party to be less combative and more cooperative, but part of this is serious work from the Caucus and that effort should be acknowledged. The resolutions we submitted were all passed:

1. Support of actively increasing diversity among DNC members from NYS

2. Amending New York's election laws to enable machine counting of absentee ballots
3. Amending the NYS Democratic Party rules to be more inclusive of non-binary gender

An ethics resolution was pulled by the author to be reworked and will be considered at the next meeting, later this fall. At that upcoming fall meeting we will be voting on about a dozen elected representatives on the Democratic National Committee ("DNC"). I have written in the past about how some of them may make sense (Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie), but others do not (Governor Cuomo's sister). And with one exception, former State Party Chair Byron Brown of Buffalo, the entire slate is from downstate (NYC and Long Island), and has no Latinx or Asian representation.

Even with our diversity reso passing, we still have to push for newer DNC reps who do not have the whiff of corruption about them (two law partners of former Queens County Chairman Joe Crowley come to mind; Crowley was the

Congress member beaten by AOC in 2018). The Caucus and our allies will be submitting several candidates for consideration, not a full slate, strategically, but enough that we believe a few might get elected, giving us a bit of a peek inside the DNC, rather than having it filtered through the State Party, or more typically, not hearing anything at all.