

# State Committeeman Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

The State Party continues to be quiet, with attention earlier this year focused on Georgia and then on the storming of Capitol Hill by Trump supporters leading up to the inauguration of the Biden/Harris ticket on January 20. I imagine that once we get past petitioning in February, things will pick up again. It is a different era in New York politics now – with the legislature having achieved a veto-proof majority, the Governor is more isolated than ever before. There is a lot of energy, both hopeful and discontented, in the air, and what that means for the 2022 elections, and the Governor's attempt at a record fourth term (something denied to his father Mario with the election of George Pataki in 1994), remains to be seen. The failure of the state to manage the virus (and I know that this is a smaller conflagration than the larger

dumpster fire of the country's mismanagement, or the paralysis that has dominated City Hall), and Cuomo's tin ear in writing a "mission accomplished" type book about vanquishing the virus akin to President George W. Bush standing on an aircraft carrier and announcing the end of the war in Iraq, leads me to wonder where we will be in a year's time. Jumaane Williams, the NYC Public Advocate, who scored 47% against Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul's 53% in 2018, has been mentioned as looking for a rematch/promotion by potentially challenging the Governor next year. Williams' reelection in 2021 is assured with weak opposition in the primary this year, and depending on who the new progressive Mayor is, that person might be willing to support Williams' bid, establishing a more city-friendly occupant in Albany. Notwithstanding the self-inflicted wounds of Mayor De Blasio, much of the drama in local politics has been due to the absurd war

between the Mayor and the Governor, which precedes both current officeholders, and the inability of the city to manage this relationship to its advantage. In fact, it is curious that NYC has not yet elected one of its own to the Governor's mansion. In most other states, the mayor (or any citywide elected official) of the state's biggest city is automatically considered a top contender for Governor. California promoted Mayor Gavin Newsom from Mayor of San Francisco to Governor (albeit with an 8-year stint as LG); and John Hickenlooper, who was Mayor of Denver, became Governor (and now Senator from Colorado). Mayor Martin O'Malley of Baltimore was promoted to Governor of Maryland, and Mayor Ed Rendell of Philadelphia was similarly elevated to Governor of PA. The list goes on. Does all this energy and activism generated pushing back against the orange terror in the White House foretell a raucous 2022 election cycle?

Looking forward to it unfolding. See  
you all at the next club meeting!