



## THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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### CLUB MEETING

**Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 8:00 pm**  
The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103 Street

### Impeachment: What's Next?

**Elizabeth Holtzman, Former U.S. Representative (*Invited*)**

**Maya Wiley, MSNBC Legal Analyst (*Invited*)**

### Candidates for Federal & State Offices

**U.S. Congress • State Senate**

**State Assembly • State Committee**

**Judicial Delegates**

### AGENDA

7:45 pm Sign In

8:00 pm Call to Order

District Leader Reports

*Invited Speakers:*

Elizabeth Holtzman & Maya Wiley

Candidates for Federal & State Offices

Questions & Answers

Adjourn

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## President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

Happy New Year to all!

First, a note about the annual Three Parks Holiday Party. The party normally takes place in December, but this year we ran into a rare, unforeseen schedule conflict with the Youth Hostel. But undaunted, we have rescheduled the party for early in the New Year, on Sunday, January 12. We look forward to celebrating with all of you!

Now as you know, the year ahead looks to be especially momentous and challenging. Three Parks hopes to play an important role in supporting Democratic candidates, and planning for that effort is already underway. There will be a full calendar of events from now through the November election day. At this month's Club meeting, you will hear about candidates for U.S. Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, judicial delegate, and Democratic State Committee. Then in February, Club members will vote to endorse candidates in each of those races. Almost as soon as that is done, we will begin petitioning to get our candidates on the ballot for the June primary. Then, while we campaign for our federal and state candidates, the crucial Presidential Primary will take place at the end of April.

And during all of these months, Club member volunteers will continue to power our monthly Take Back Congress phone banks and postcard-writing events, reaching out to voters around the country to urge them to come to the polls for Democrats. And all of that is just the beginning! The real campaign season, with sidewalk tabling, knocking on doors, phone banking, and so much more, starts in the fall.

That's a big challenge, but it is also a huge opportunity for Club members to get involved, take an active role, and make an impact. This is our chance to elect progressive Democrats, combat the Trump agenda, and support the critical policies that we care so much about. So let's work together and make 2020 the year we want it to be. At this time next year, I hope all of us are proud and pleased with what we have achieved.

At our January 8 club meeting, we look to provide some expert insight on the impeachment process. We will also hear from candidates for federal and state offices. I look forward to seeing you there!

## Club Members Reach Out to KY and ME Voters to Take Back the Senate.

By Chuck Wall

Undeterred by the cold and rainy weather, Three Parks volunteers gathered on Dec. 9 for an evening of phone banking and postcard writing. This was the third event this fall in the "Take Back Congress" campaign, and a full schedule of additional events is planned as the year's elections get closer. All interested Club members are invited to join us in our ongoing efforts.

As Club members know, helping Democrats regain control of the Senate in 2020 is crucial. We are currently targeting two vitally important races: the fights to unseat Republican Senators Mitch McConnell in Kentucky and Susan Collins in Maine. At the Dec. 9 event, we had three activities going on at once:

- Phoning Republican seniors in Kentucky to alert them that Senator McConnell cannot be trusted to protect the Social Security and Medicare benefits that seniors rely on.
- Writing postcards to Republican seniors in Kentucky with the same message about Senator.
- Phoning younger registered Democrats in Maine who neglected to vote in 2018 and urging them to come to the polls next year.

Responses from the Kentucky voters were predictably mixed; some were friendly and agreed with our message; others were uninterested or unwilling to talk. By contrast, the young voters contacted in Maine were generally friendly and promised to vote.

In all, at our three events this fall, volunteers have

**Volunteers at the Dec. 9 event called young voters in Maine to encourage them to come to the polls.**



called more than 900 phone numbers, written more than 500 postcards, and logged numerous significant conversations with voters.

We will be scheduling more phone banking/postcard writing events starting in January.

**Next Phone Bank and Postcard-Writing Event  
Tuesday, January 21, 6:30-8:30 PM  
For details, watch for email announcements or  
check the Three Parks website.**

Over time we plan to expand our focus to include not just important Senate races, but also Congressional and other local races in New York State. Once the campaigning season starts, we expect to work with campaign organizations in each district to support the eventual Democratic nominee. We encourage all Club members to join us at these events.

## November 2019 Vote Results

The table below shows the results of the vote last November for Public Advocate and for five ballot proposals.

### Public Advocate

	69th AD	City-wide
Jumaane Williams (D)	19,334	607,441
Joseph Borelli (R+Cons)	1,434	155,617

### Propositions

#### Ranked-choice voting

Yes	17,213	86%	473,918	74%
No	2,824	14%	170,529	26%

#### Allow Civilian Review Board to investigate Police officers

Yes	17,467	88%	474,897	75%
No	2,336	12%	161,569	25%

#### Extend lobbying

##### Restrictions to two years

Yes	16,323	88%	483,629	77%
No	2,255	12%	141,246	23%

#### City Budget: Allow Use of Rainy Day fund

Yes	16,215	83%	443,417	71%
No	3,284	17%	180,328	29%

#### Allow Community Boards more time for land use review

Yes	14,268	74%	469,939	76%
No	4,991	26%	145,340	24%

## ALEC Is Not Your New Best Friend

By Maxine DeSeta & Chuck Wall

ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) is the most dangerous corporate lobby group most Americans haven't even heard of, to paraphrase how Common Cause describes it. Many of the most important political fights—healthcare, voting rights, environmental protection—take place on the state level. And the secretive ALEC, despite denying that it engages in lobbying, gets an outsize say in all of them, thanks to the efficient way that it rams far-right legislation through state houses.



ALEC's members are a coalition of two groups: representatives of some of America's biggest corporations

and conservative state lawmakers who sympathize with corporate goals. They work in close partnership; the corporate sponsors provide funding for the organization and perks for the lawmakers, and in return the lawmakers allow the corporations' lobbyists to write their dream legislation into ALEC "model bills." The lawmakers then rush those bills through their state houses, turning them into laws that enrich corporations and hurt the rest of us. Working through ALEC, corporations spend huge sums to make sure that their wish lists get into the hands of state lawmakers. They fund lavish meetings and educational seminars for those lawmakers and pay their travel expenses. Yet when Common Cause accused ALEC of being a lobbying group, ALEC denied the charge, pointing out that it is legally a 501(C)(3) public charity. That status is what enables, for example, a corporation like Exxon to use ALEC to push legislation overturning environmental regulations and then deduct its expenses as charitable contributions.

Besides Exxon Mobil, major corporate contributors to ALEC include Kraft, Coca Cola, AT&T, GlaxoSmith-Kline, Johnson & Johnson, Bayer, Altria (tobacco), Reynolds American (tobacco), Salt River Project (energy), State Farm Insurance, United Parcel Service, and Walmart (the world's largest retailer). Other contributors are corporate foundations like the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation and trade associations like that of the pharmaceutical industry.

While most lawmakers who get benefits from ALEC are Republicans, some Democrats such as



James Clyburn (D-SC) and Steny Hoyer (D-MD) have accepted contributions from this group.

Wikipedia has a complete list of the corporations and politicians who are ALEC supporters.

To combat this organization, a boycott of its corporate contributors might be an effective strategy.

### **Three Parks Annual Board Election**

The election will be held at the Club meeting on Wednesday, February 12. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the January 8 Club meeting. Biographies of all candidates will be presented in the February newsletter. Here are the proposed candidates:

#### **Officers**

Lorraine Zamora, President

Daniele Gerard, 1st V.P.

Merle McEldowney, 2nd V.P.

Ellen Flax, Treasurer

Theresa Canter, Membership Secretary

Jessica Habershtock, Recording Secretary

Charles Wall, Corresponding Secretary

#### **Founding Member Emeritus**

Milivoy Samurovich

#### **Members-at-Large**

Genora Bennett

Paul Bifani

Vincent Brancato

Corinne Constantine

Wendy Dannett

Jock Davenport

David Lazarus

Mary Ann Marks

Lynn Bender Max

Steve Max

Miriam Rabban

Lois Safian

Irene Shriner

Daniel Tsadok

### **Social Media Is Now a Vital Campaign Tool for Democrats**

By Paul Froehlich

Social media is now one of the main ways that political campaigns reach voters. So it is great news that leading Democratic strategists have recently launched a new organization called ACRONYM and a companion PAC called PACRONYM to use social media to help elect Democrats in 2020. The group plans to spend \$75 million on digital advertising to counter President Trump's early spending advantage

in key battleground states. This will be done through innovative advertising campaigns on Facebook, YouTube, and other platforms.

A key advisor to the new organizations is David Plouffe, who managed Barack Obama's 2008 campaign. He offered a strong warning for Democrats to act now: "The gun on this election does not start when we have a nominee; it started months ago. If the things that need to happen don't happen in these battleground states between now and May or June, our nominee will never have time to catch up."

ACRONYM has a timely and useful newsletter that anyone can sign up to receive. Here's how:

Go to: [anotheracronym.org](http://anotheracronym.org); page down to the fourth page on the home section—it will give you a button to Read the Latest Issue. Click that button and a page will come up with

a sign-up area for name and email. If you want to see this effort succeed, you can donate money at [pacronym.org](http://pacronym.org) or through ActBlue. This progressive effort is an important initiative to help Democrats succeed in 2020. Support their work!



### **In Memory of TPID Board Member Marie A. Lunn**

On November 6, TPID members joined friends and family members at a solemn and moving memorial service for the late Marie A. Lunn, a TPID Board member who passed away suddenly in September. The service took place in the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church on West 138th Street, where Ms. Lunn was a parishioner. The eulogy was delivered by the church pastor, the Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts III.

Ms. Lunn was the Clerical Coordinator of the Orthopedic Unit at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital starting in 1992. Besides her work with Three Parks, she also volunteered with the Fresh Air Fund, the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, the Breast Cancer Foundation, The American Lung Association, the Schomburg Center, and St. Luke's Volunteers. She received a Bronze President's Volunteer service award in 2015.

## **Saving Our Neighborhood Stores**

By Lynn Bender Max

At a December 5 town hall meeting led by UWS Save Our Stores (SOS), an overflow crowd heard speakers address the pressing issue of retail store vacancies in our neighborhood. SOS President Beth Krieger reported that the vacancy rate in the Broadway corridor is now over 20%. The main drivers of vacancies are e-commerce, high rents, and property taxes and regulatory hurdles. Community action is urgently needed to ensure the ongoing vibrancy of the West Side. Remedies proposed by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, City Council Member Helen Rosenthal, State Senator Robert Jackson, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal, and Comptroller Scott Stringer included the following:

- Senator Jackson's and Assembly Member Rosenthal's companion bills to tax store owners after six months of vacancy.
- City Council's Small Business Jobs Survival Act, which would establish commercial rent regulation.
- Easing regulatory hurdles and ensuring coordination between regulators.

The Storefront Tracker bill, which requires the City to register all commercial storefronts. Registration is already underway, and the resulting database will help the City better understand what is causing the current vacancies so that solutions can be developed.

## **Congratulations!**

to former TPID President Elizabeth Kellner & Commissioner Doug Kellner on the birth of their first grandchild, Levi.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Three Parks Holiday Party**

Sunday, Jan. 12, 5:00 to 8:00 pm

American Youth Hostel

103rd Street & Amsterdam Avenue

Please bring a dish for 4 to 6 people.

### **Take Back the Senate Phone Bank & Postcard Writing**

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

West 110th St. Location

For details, watch for email announcements or check the Three Parks website.

### **Voter Registration Deadline**

Friday, February 14

Last day before the April federal/state primary to switch party affiliation



**Upper West Side Neighbors and Three Parks members at the December 5 SOS town hall meeting.**



**Three Parks Holiday Party  
Sunday, January 12th  
5:00 to 8:00 PM  
At the Youth Hostel  
103rd and Amsterdam  
Please bring a dish for 4 to 6 people**

Admission is FREE, so plan to come and enjoy the fun, festivities, and food with other club members and their families.

Please bring a main dish for 4 to 6 people—meat, fish, vegetable, potato, pasta, rice, or dessert—for the buffet. Three Parks will also collect cash or checks made out to West Side Campaign Against Hunger.

Please RSVP at the Three Parks website and let us know what you plan to bring.

# Three Parks Independent Democrats

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category—Check One

Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Family—two adults in the same household (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

Low Income (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Low Income Family (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here \_\_\_\_\_ if you prefer to receive the newsletter **solely** by email.

Please pay your dues with a check, money order or via PayPal.

Please make out all checks to

**Three Parks Independent Democrats**

*Mail to:* Three Parks Independent Democrats

Cathedral Station, P.O. Box 1316, New York, NY 10025

Attn: Treasurer

*Three Parks Independent Democrats*  
*Cathedral Station P. O. Box 1316*  
*New York, NY 10025*

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020**

**Impeachment: What's Next?**

Elizabeth Holtzman (Invited)

Former U.S. Representative

Maya Wiley (Invited)

MSNBC Legal Analyst

**Candidates for Federal &  
State Offices**

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State Assembly • State Committee

Judicial Delegates

**Upcoming Meetings**

**Wednesday, January 22, 8:00 pm**

**Three Parks Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 12, 8:00 pm**

**Three Parks Club Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 26, 8:00 pm**

**Three Parks Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 11, 8:00 pm**

**Three Parks Club Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 pm**

**Three Parks Board Meeting**