



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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Elizabeth Kellner	Judy Wood judyw123@verizon.net Gerald Schultz gjschultz@msn.com	Bob Botfeld Cynthia Doty	Lynn Thomas Daniel Marks Cohen

OCTOBER MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2014

FEATURED TOPIC: **State Senator Espailat: Prospects for regaining the State**
SPEAKERS: **Senate and Housing Issues update**

November Ballot Proposal on Redistricting
Speaker: Common Cause representative TBD

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: The Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

AGENDA

8:00 pm Call To Order

Announcements

Plans for Election Day November 5

Common Cause NY Speaker on November Ballot Proposal on Legislative Redistricting in NYS.

State Senator Adriano Espailat - Housing issues update and prospects for Democrats to regain control of the State Senate

CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

TPID Membership Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Ballroom

Wednesday, October 10, 2014

Last Day Voter Registration for November General Election

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

TPID Board Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Board Room

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Election Day – Federal and State Offices

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

TPID Membership Meeting - 8 pm Hostel Ballroom

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Elizabeth Kellner

Our September meeting was held the day after the Primary election. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer was the featured speaker. He noted some of the highlights of his first eight months in office as well as his plans for the future. Among the topics covered, either in Stringer's main remarks, or in response to the several probing questions from our always well informed Three Parks audience, were his commitment to maintaining the Comptroller's Office independence and fulfilling its fiscal watchdog responsibilities notwithstanding his overall support for the de Blasio administration's initiatives and policies, monitoring the government's to date long delayed and sadly woefully inadequate response to the enormous needs of those most devastated by the ravages of Superstorm Sandy, auditing the operations of the NYC Housing Authority, the operations of charter schools, and playing an active role in trying to ensure that public pension funds are invested in a way to minimize negative environmental and health consequences.

We also heard from Alex Beauchamp, Northeast Region Director for Food & Water Watch about the then upcoming September 21 People's Climate March and the remaining narrow window of opportunity in the final days of the first Cuomo administration to affect NYS policy on fracking. Ed Sullivan of Public Advocate Letitia James staff spoke about some of the actions her office has been spearheading as well as discussing Three Parks and others concerns about some primary election endorsements James had made.

Last but not least, and actually to start the meeting, District Leader Bob Botfeld reported on the Primary elections results in our neighborhood -- tragically low turnout, very strong support for the Teachout/Wu ticket in most ED's, and despite his ultimate loss, winning for our endorsed State Senate candidate Robert Jackson in Three Parks' territory. The ED by ED primary election results are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

THE STATEWIDE RACES IN NOVEMBER

What's a progressive Democrat to do come November? The one thing you shouldn't do is stay home, even if you are not a fan of the Cuomo/Hochul ticket. Turnout is important to our club and neighborhood's credibility as a political force to be taken seriously.

The policies and programs elected officials promote, and the character of their campaigns is in no small measure determined by the message sent by those who vote. If you stay home in protest, apathy or disillusionment, you will be ignored. Be assured that candidates for NYC and federal office also take note of what happens in a gubernatorial election year. Indeed the number of people voting for the Democratic candidate for Governor determines how many Judicial Delegates are allocated to our Assembly District.

Eric Schneiderman and Tom DiNapoli, our incumbent NYS Attorney General and Comptroller, need our support. Yes it's true, they are both ahead in the September 26 Siena poll (Schneiderman 50% to Cahill 34% -- a gap which has recently narrowed considerably; Di Napoli 56% to Antonacci 27%). For these progressive champions, an impressive margin of victory is great but not enough. They also want to show a mandate for their agendas to win legislative and public support and to stand up to the Governor and other powerful interests when that becomes necessary. Remember too that Danny O'Donnell, Bill Perkins and Adriano Espaillat are on the ballot as well. In particular, if the Democrats do win control of the State Senate, we want the Democratic conference to know the strength and magnitude of support for Perkins and Espaillat to help them secure prominent leadership roles. Your vote does matter in November, notwithstanding lopsided polls so get that message out to your NYS friends, family, colleagues and neighbors.

NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES

Voters will be presented with three ballot proposals on November 4. Two are amendments to the NYS Constitution, and the other is a bond offering which requires voter approval. Two are easy, and one is very complicated. Abstracts explaining each, as well as the actual text, are on the NYS Board of Elections website - www.elections.ny.gov/ProposedConsAmendments2. Here is a brief summary of each.

PROPOSAL ONE - a constitutional amendment to establish a redistricting commission which will propose new state legislative and congressional district lines after each decennial census. It would not take effect until after the 2020 census. The current redistricting process falls entirely to the State Legislature where it is mired in partisan politics, incumbency protection and gerrymandering. The proposal is opposed by some good government groups (e.g. Common Cause and NYPIRG) who believe it does not go far

enough, but supported by others (e.g. Citizens Union). It is admittedly an imperfect compromise, but definitely a whole lot better than what we have now which is what we are stuck with if the measure doesn't pass and the Legislature and the Governor fail to agree on something better. The proposal sets out elaborate procedures for selection the ten members of the redistricting commission, detailed eligibility requirements and voting rules under different political scenarios intended to insulate decision making from the worst partisan abuses. You will want to activate some brain cells to think about this one -- the age old "half a loaf" dilemma.

PROPOSAL TWO - a "no brainer" amendment to the constitutional requirement that bills be "printed" and "on the desk" of legislators before a vote. Right now only a hardcopy version of a bill is allowed. This proposal would permit legible electronic versions of bills to substitute.

PROPOSAL THREE - authorizes the issuance of up to \$2 billion of state debt via bonds to improve learning and educational opportunity for both public and non public schools via investments in capital projects and technology. Although not a constitutional amendment, it requires voter approval because it is backed by the full faith and credit of the state (which lowers the interest rate).

Sounds great -- more computers, high speed broadband, and wifi, enhanced security and safety, and replacing trailer classrooms.

However, it's worth noting that this money could be used to finance projects for private and charter schools, depending on how you feel about that.

DISTRICT LEADERS REPORT

By Bob Botfeld

Primary Day - Teach out and Wu and Jackson

The Democratic challengers to Cuomo and Hochul, Zephyr Teachout and Tim Wu, were very strong in the Three Parks' election districts. Teach out beat Cuomo by a 3 to-2 margin, 1801 vote to 1271. Wu dominated Hochul by an even stronger 2 to 1, 1938 to 1070. (See the complete Primary Results on a later page in this newsletter. In our election districts between Broadway and Riverside Drive Teach out and Wu won overwhelmingly by margins that ranged from 2-1 to 4-1. They also did well along Central Park West. Cuomo was strong in Manhattan Valley (between Manhattan Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue) including 5-1 margins in the central campus of Douglass Houses.

In the 31st State Senate race here, Jackson led Espaillat 920 vote's to-779. Most ED's were close and reflected Jackson's overall edge in the district. Although Jackson lost the election to Espaillat, Jackson led or was within a few votes in six of the seven assembly districts in the 31st Senate district. Jackson won the West Side districts, the 67th AD (roughly West 50's to the West 80's), and our own 68th AD and edged or tied Espaillat in the Harlem AD's. Espaillat crushed Jackson by over 3000 votes in the 72nd AD (Washington Heights and inwood).

From 50% to 11% Voter Turnout

Voter turnout was abysmal throughout the state (11%), the city (also 11%) and almost as poor in the Three Parks' election districts (15%). Although the lack of a close high visibility statewide or citywide election and general increasing voter apathy has been cited as the cause of low turnout, why has almost every primary election for the past twenty years experienced declining turnout?

In 1989, 50% of the voters turned out for that Democratic primary. In 1989, the voter then could not ignore Primary Day because every corner was festooned with colorful campaign posters that decorated streetlamps and the central mall area of Broadway. They added energy and the sense importance to participating in a democracy.

Two decades of crackdown on political pestering with massive fines by the Republican Giuliani and anti-party Bloomberg Administrations have left the streets barren. Giuliani and Bloomberg removed the only inexpensive method for local candidates to get their name out to the voters. Advertising or emails do not give us a sense of place or neighborhood, Voting is a pro-community activity and the physical presence of posters help us feel that we are part of neighborhood and remind us and encourage us to take part in our community.

The Staten Island/Brooklyn 11th Congressional District is winnable.

The Recchia campaign for the 11th Congressional District needs our help. The two most recent polls show that the Democratic candidate for the 11th Congressional District which covers Staten Island and parts of Brooklyn in winnable. The latest Sienna poll ten days ago shows Recchia within the margin of error - four point. A week later the Daily News reported an internal poll that showed the race tied. The Republican

candidate, Michael Grimm, is under federal indictment for fraud and financial irregularities but most voters are unaware of the severity of the charges.

The Sienna poll reported that while half the voters had been contacted or seen an advertisement from the Grimm campaign only one-third of the voters had been contacted by the Recchia campaign. They have asked for our help.

They are conducting daily get out the vote canvasses. In particular, on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12 they need volunteers to help reach out to likely voters. They will meet us at the ferry and drive us to the canvassing areas at 9:30am, 12:30pm, and 3:30pm. A few hours of hour time can help swing one critical seat to the Democratic side.

Help is also needed to call the voters by phone. Arrangements can be made for you to do make the phone calls from your apartment or you can join one of the campaign calling centers. If you can help either by phone or with the physical canvass, call me at 212-865-1450 or email me at rjbwteg@aol.com.

ERRATA:

The petitioning report in the September newsletter contained two errors. Lynn Thomas collected 84 signatures; Gerald Schultz collected 29.

Dominic Recchia for Congress A Democratic congressperson from Staten Island?

By Merle McEldowney

Unheard of!!! Well it happened a few years ago when the family values Staten Island Congressman, Vito Fosella, was arrested on a drunk driving charge - and was picked up by the mother of his child who was not his wife!! It was a democrat that replaced him.

The current Staten Island Republican congressman may have almost topped that. Immediately after the election Michael Grimm will go to trial result of a 20-count indictment

that includes charges of tax evasion multiple counts of wire fraud, aiding in the preparation of false federal tax returns, impeding the Internal Revenue Service, perjury and employing undocumented aliens. He was also videotaped threatening to throw a NY1 TV journalist over a banister.

So we have a good chance to elect a Democratic congressperson from Staten Island. Even better is that the district has been redistricted to include Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst. Dominic Recchia is running. For twelve years he was the city council member from Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst! He was well liked which will bring a good number of votes from that district. His personality is warm, cuddly and smart! Ethnic politics matter on Staten Island and his Italian background is a plus. For us the fact that he has three daughters is a plus - he says he is pro choice, he does not want any one telling his daughters what to do with their body.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has chosen this as a high priority race in their campaign to turn the House of Representatives from Red to Blue. Jerry Nadler is actively supporting Recchia: helping him raise money and making appearances with him.

We at Three Parks can help. Staten Island is a short rider on the ferry. It is on the North Shore, closest to the ferry that we need to get every single vote. Check your Emails from the club. We should be in Staten Island this weekend. There will be phone banks during the week. We will not have a store front for Recchia so no one

needs to sell buttons - but we need to make calls and ring doorbells. Sending him money is not a bad idea either!!

Three Parks July Picnic!

by Theresa Canter

The Three Park's annual picnic was another tremendous success! It turned out to be a glorious evening for a picnic in Central Park, despite the ominous forecast! We had a great turnout, with over 100 folks throughout the evening. In addition to our club members and neighborhood friends, we were joined by many judicial candidates and our following electeds: State Senator **Bill Perkins**, Assembly Member **Danny O'Donnell**, Manhattan Borough President **Gale Brewer**, and City Council Member **Mark Levine**. Also in attendance was our club endorsed candidate for State Senate- SD 31, **Robert Jackson**; and **Oliver Koppell**, candidate for State Senate 34 SD

As always, it takes a whole lot of Three Parkers to plan and pull off a successful picnic! Many thanks to all the members and guests who brought lots of good food and drink to share; and those who volunteered to coordinate, set-up, serve and clean-up the event - including **Bob Botfeld**, **Wendy Dannett**, **Jock Davenport**, **Cynthia Doty**, **Daniel Gerard**, **Louisa Gilbert**, **Elizabeth Kellner**, **Erl Kimmich**, **Ken Laufer**, **David Lazurus**, **Marie Lunn**, **Mary Ann Marks**, **Merle McEldowney**, **Judith Medina**, **Miranda Mendoza**, **Batya Miller**, **Deborah Thomas**, **Lauren Williams**, **Rosetta Williams** and all the many others who pitched in to help as needed. And, thanks to **Alan Cary** who again sang and played the banjo for the crowd.

Special thanks to **Gerald Schultz** for photographing the event. Pictures are posted on both our website, www.ThreeParksDems.org, and our Facebook page, Three Parks Independent Democrats.

Saturday, October 11th

Take a stand for a ban

by Daniele Gerard

The Global Frackdown is a day of worldwide protests demanding an end to the dirty and dangerous practice of fracking. New York City is hosting a special event featuring Helen Caldicott, physician, Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and renowned authority on nuclear weapons and radiation, who will address fracking's threats to our drinking water.

What: Town Hall Meeting: Fracking & New York City

When: Saturday, October 11th, Noon to 2 PM

Where: St. Mark's on the Bowery, 131 East 10th Street at 2nd Avenue

Please join us to send a clear message to Governor Cuomo and other elected officials: we demand a future powered by clean, renewable energy, not one that depends on dirty, polluting fossil fuels. Three Parkers and friends will probably travel downtown together, so look for an email blast with details. Let's tell Governor Cuomo: ban fracking now!

Primary Results table to be placed here or on back of poster.

Good News from the Green Economy

By Erl Kimmich

While the natural gas industry continues to air mega expensive slick advertisements finely honed to get the american people to buy the proposition that we need a “transition fuel” before we make the inevitable switch to free renewable energy from the sun, solar and wind energy quietly gain market share and Energy Efficiency reduces demand .

Progress: Updates on the Green Economy

SOLAR

[For the first seven months of 2014](http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2014/08/renewable-energy-accounts-for-100-percent-of-new-us-electrical-generating-capacity-in-july), renewables have accounted for more than half of the 4,758 MW of new U.S. electrical capacity that has come on line with solar (25.8 percent) and wind (25.1 percent) each accounting for more than a quarter of the total. (<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2014/08/renewable-energy-accounts-for-100-percent-of-new-us-electrical-generating-capacity-in-july>)

Solar is getting cheaper almost by the day. Many expect rooftop solar coupled with energy storage to be the next big thing, and the net metering debate continues. (http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Technologies_DG_Renewables/U-S-wind-energy-industry-is-doing-quite-well-too-It-s-not-all-about-solar-6712.html#.U_lI3_ldXrw)

According to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) :

- There are currently more than **415 solar companies** at work throughout the value chain in New York, **employing 5,000**.

- In 2013, New York installed **69 MW of solar electric capacity**, ranking it 9th nationally.
- The **271 MW of solar energy currently installed** in New York ranks the state 9th in the country in installed solar capacity. There is enough solar energy installed in the state to power 45,800 homes.
- In 2013, **\$343 million was invested in New York** to install solar for home, business and utility use. This represents a 12% increase over the previous year, and is expected to grow again this year.
- Average installed residential and commercial photovoltaic system **prices in New York have fallen by 8% in the last year**. The price to install solar on homes and business has dropped steadily across the country – by 4% from last year and 37% from 2010.

(<http://www.seia.org/state-solar-policy/new-york>)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

According to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

Increasing Energy Efficiency • Through December 2013, NYSERDA achieved over \$6.8 billion in cumulative energy bill savings through the System Benefits Charge (SBC) and the Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS). • For every \$1 in energy efficiency funds spent by NYSERDA on energy efficiency improvement projects, \$3 in energy bill savings were realized by program participants. • More than 566,700 households and 28,500 commercial, industrial and institutional customers have reduced their energy use and annual energy bills by participating in NYSERDA programs.

Creating a Clean Energy Economy • As a result of NYSERDA's technology and business development investments, there are more than 260 new and improved clean energy products in the market. • For every \$1 invested by NYSERDA in product development, New York State realized approximately \$8 in statewide economic and environmental benefits, including the creation of over 700 net jobs in 2012. More than 34,000 classroom participants received training through NYSERDA's clean energy workforce development programs and Energy Codes and Standards Program.

Protecting Our Environment • In 2013, NYSERDA's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs eliminated more than 4,280 annual tons of NOx, 4,460 annual tons of SO2, and nearly 3.8 million annual tons of CO2 into New York State's air - equivalent to removing 742,400 cars from the highways.

Charge NY includes the installation of up to 3,000 public and workplace charging stations to make New York State electric vehicle-ready.

<http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Publications/NYSERDA-Annual-Reports-and-Financial-Statements.aspx>

WIND POWER

US is number two in the world after China in generation of electricity by wind power.

<http://www.thecountriesof.com/top-10-wind-energy-producing-countries-2013/>

The Wind Industry employs more than 80,000 workers from construction workers to engineers. 90% more wind installations were made in 2012 than in 2011.

9 states rely on wind for more than 12% of their annual production.

In 2012 wind power was the leading source of new electrical generation, overtaking natural gas.

<http://energy.gov/articles/americas-wind-industry-reaches-record-highs>

http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/steo/report/renew_co2.cfm

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Next Meeting

Wednesday, OCTOBER 8, 2014

State Senator Adriano Espaillat:
Update on Winning the State Senate
& Update on Housing

The Legislative Redistricting Ballot Proposal