

Re-elect

ROBERT (BOB) BOTFELD

Male Democratic District Leader

69th Assembly District Part A

Bob Botfeld is an effective progressive leader dedicated to preserving the character and liberal traditions of the Upper West Side. He is the Male Democratic District Leader for Three Parks Independent Democrats, which represents the Upper West Side from 93rd to 106th streets. District Leaders are volunteer positions charged with working to elect progressive Democratic candidates, coordinate petition campaigns, ensure local elections are held efficiently and fairly, and advocate for local community needs.

Bob Botfeld was the architect and a leader of the **successful effort to stop future skyscrapers and overdevelopment from destroying our neighborhood -- 96th to 110th streets.** Together with co-leader Cynthia Doty and Miki Fiegel, he founded Westsiders for Responsible Development to fight for our community on these and other development issues. He was appointed to the City Planning/Community Board 7 joint task force to help negotiate the plan that provided for both contextual zoning and affordable housing. **The result was the West Side Rezoning bill passed by the New York City Council that forever limits overdevelopment in our neighborhood.**

Later, Bob founded **Save Our Neighborhood Stores**, which **helped pass the West Side Retail Zoning Bill** in the New York City Council. The West Side Retail Zoning Bill protects local retail and service businesses

on Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway from displacement by big box stores, chain drugstores, and the ubiquitous banks.

Bob and co-leader Cynthia Doty have been doing this neighborhood work for many years.

They successfully fought the previous proposals for commercial and luxury infill for the lawns and open spaces in Douglass Houses.

Together, they helped convince the Parks Department that commercial business should not dominate our beloved public parks; they helped stop a noisy tennis bubble from being installed in Central Park and worked to preserve the quiet and beauty of Riverside Park from being overwhelmed by a commercial circus for months have at time.

Earlier, Bob led the Upper West Side effort to stop the West Side Stadium. When New York State Assembly Speaker Silver voted to deny funding for the West Side Stadium, he cited this opposition to the stadium as critical in determining how he voted.

In each presidential election year prior to this pandemic year, Bob initiated, organized, or helped manage Three Parks Independent Democrats' presidential campaign storefronts, each of which made tens of thousands of calls and sent thousands of canvassers to swing states.

He initiated and co-managed together with other members of Three Parks Independent Democrats the well-known **Obama Campaign Center at 102nd Street in 2012** and in 2016 helped initiate the Clinton/Kaine headquarters. In 2004, Bob started the **John Kerry Storefront** on 106th Street. This became a grass roots phenomenon that mobilized over 1500 Westsiders in a few short weeks and became part of the national campaign with nationwide calling, bus trips, and fundraising activities.

Bob has a strong belief that the Democratic Party should be a grass roots organization. In 2018, a quirk in the New York State Democratic party constitution enabled a few party leaders to effectively and arbitrarily appoint the successor to a vacant state senate seat. He immediately set out to fix that. He drafted and wrote the change to the New York County Democratic Constitution ensuring that the membership in the Democratic Party of New York County could not be denied their vote in selecting their nominee for local office. He organized, negotiated, and then successfully fought for adoption by the 2000 county committee members of the change in the Democratic party rules.

Bob Botfeld has spent his lifetime in progressive causes beginning with his start as a VISTA volunteer and public housing tenant organizer in South Carolina. For most of his professional career, he worked in the computer industry in marketing, managerial and technical engineering positions. For the past six years, Bob has investigated fraud, corruption, and mismanagement in the City as an analyst for the City of New York.

Endorsed by

Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Manhattan Borough
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(list in formation)