

# President's Report

## By Lorraine Zamora

Summer's over. I hope you all had time to get away from the city fray. I hope, too, that you voted in the August 23 primary for congressional and state senate candidates. It marked New York's second primary election of the year—the first was in June for statewide and Assembly races—due to a bungled redistricting that led the courts to step in and take over the once-in-a-decade process.

Generally, citywide turnout was dismally low. Only 13% of the 2.6 million voters eligible to cast a ballot on August 23 went to the polls, and absentee ballots are still trickling in. The two districts with the highest voter turnout were in Manhattan: District 10, where Dan Goldman squeaked ahead of Yuh-Line Niou, had a voter turnout of 19%, and our own District 12, where our very own Jerry Nadler soundly defeated Carolyn Maloney with a winning turnout of 24%!

But though Three Parks has good cause to boast and cheer, the low overall voter turnout leaves a lot to ponder. Ideally, deciding to go out to vote should be an instinctive decision to do our civic duty. But that's not where we are today. Too many people are confused about the process, tired of the rhetoric, suspicious of everyone's intentions, and unwilling to recognize that it is important for every individual to vote. Various solutions have been proposed, but most of them would require fundamental reforms, and there is no time for any major change between now and November 8. Still, getting out the vote must be an essential part of our activities between now and Election Day.

So what can be done right now? One good answer is giving voters personal contact with those who can answer their questions, relieve

their doubts, and clarify their confusion. And that is exactly what Three Parks does by our sidewalk tabling, with campaign literature on our endorsed candidates, registration forms, sample ballots, absentee ballot applications, and up-to-date information on where to vote before and on Election Day. Most important, talk one-to-one; we answer basic questions from “Do I need to bring an ID to the poll?” to “Do I still have time to register?” If we don’t have the answer, we will find it. Starting Saturday, October 1, Three Parks will be back on Broadway to provide all the information voters need. Check the website ([threeparksdems.org](http://threeparksdems.org)) or your email for times and locations, then join us and help us make these efforts a success.

Our other focus between now and Election Day will be helping progressive Democratic candidates in districts outside our immediate area. Right now, we are still formulating plans, but likely activities include phone banking, writing letters and postcards, texting, and door-to-door canvassing in accessible areas such as Pennsylvania and Long Island, where crucially important races are underway in swing districts. Stay tuned to Three Parks via our eblasts and our website ([threeparksdems.org](http://threeparksdems.org)) for ways in which you can participate. It’s going to be another busy fall and we need your help.

Thanks to everyone who has made Three Parks such an inspiring and invigorating community of active, progressive and dedicated individuals. I look forward to working with you again this fall.