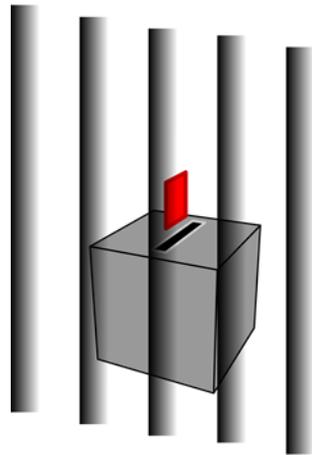

THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Pat Almonrode◆

Republican Voter Suppression and What We Democrats Can Do about It!



with speaker, Zach D. Roberts

Thursday, April 14th, 8 p.m.

Bank Street College

610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive)

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Assembly Member's Report

Daniel O'Donnell

For the first time in longer than most of us can remember the New York presidential primary matters. We who are so active in local, state and federal politics don't often get this opportunity to use our voting power to influence the outcome of the national election right here in our home state.

Our club voted to endorse Hillary Clinton for President at our February meeting. As many of you know, I have been a long time supporter of the former Secretary of State. She is one of the smartest people I have ever met. She is hands down the most qualified candidate running for office. I am confident that she will be a great president. I think too little attention is being given to the historic nature of her candidacy and the change that a woman president would bring to this country. We are long overdue for more female leadership at the national level, and Hillary Rodham Clinton is the right candidate to bring this change.

As of today she still holds a lead in the polls, but looking around on the street, one might not get that feeling. Talking to your neighbors, you might be feeling the Bern on the Upper West Side. But I believe that there are less vocal, though no less fervent Hillary supporters among us. Now is the time to activate the political organizing power of our club and get our members and allies to the polls on April 19th. Our neighbors look to us as active, informed Democrats, and your thoughts on the upcoming election matter. Please share them.

If you are interested in getting more involved in the final Get Out the Vote push, contact Brandon Cox, campaign organizer for the Upper West Side at [\(804\) 502-2003](tel:8045022003). Please sign up for a phone bank, send a letter to neighbors in your building, and remind all registered Democrats to come out and vote on April 19th. If people are curious as to the status of their registration, they can check here: <http://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/> or call **1.866.VOTE-NYC**



From the Steering Committee

Joe Nunley

THE NEWEST JIM CROW

The First Great Disenfranchisement in US History began at the beginning with slavery. The Second Great Disenfranchisement came after Reconstruction and ended in the 1870s. As David Schultz has written, "It ushered in the era of Jim Crow, poll taxes, literary tests and grandfather clauses as tools to deny African-Americans the right to vote. Today's measures such as voting fraud claims, requiring voter id's, long voting lines, the elimination of early voting and the gutting of the 1965 Voting Rights Act are being deployed to rig elections before votes are cast".

I would call our era The Third Great Disenfranchisement. Race has been the most significant factor. In 2008 voter participation among African-Americans and certain other groups surged. Then the backlash. According to a University of Massachusetts study, the more a state saw increases in minority and low income voter turnout, the more likely it was to push laws cutting back on voting rights.

Prime differences between the Jim Crow era and now? Some new tactics are being employed and more states are involved. Let's take early voting. After 2008 support for early voting eroded among Republican legislators in the South and Midwest. Why? For the first time, African Americans had begun voting early at high rates. In Southern states, early voting by African Americans nearly tripled between 2004 and 2008, overtaking early voting by whites by a significant margin. In North Carolina, seven of ten African-Americans voted early in 2008, compared to lower rates for white voters. So, that had to go.

Then voter registration restrictions proliferated. Voter registration problems have long been the single greatest barrier to voting, causing millions of lost votes per year. Ten states have passed laws curbing voter registration drives (including Florida, Illinois, Texas, and Virginia); rules are now in place requiring voters to provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering (in Alabama, Kansas, Tennessee, and previously in Arizona); and laws have now eliminated the highly popular same day registration (in Nebraska and North Carolina).

In 2008 two states had a voter ID law. Today, 34 states, all controlled by Republicans, have one. The voter ID laws represent one of the nation's most important civil rights issues, being another avenue in which minority voices can be muted. One estimate concludes that the Texas ID law could disenfranchise more than 600,000 registered voters, mostly African-American or Hispanic.

We Democrats must also concern ourselves with the electronic voting machines in this country. This year, 80 percent of the vote nationally will be cast on electronic voting machines, which have no verifiability. Six key states—Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Arizona—have Republican governors and Republican Secretaries of State, and no method of verifying the electronic vote count. On election night, these two people and an IT person could flip the outcome of an electronically counted vote within 60 seconds.

Am I paranoid? Sure. And don't listen to those people who say "both parties are the same". Only one party in this country is actively trying to rig elections and take away people's sacred right to vote and it isn't the Democrats!

Don't miss our club meeting on April 14th where Zach D. Roberts will speak about these issues and will show a clip from the film he made with Robert Kennedy, Junior and Greg Palast called "Steal Back Your Vote". We need you there. We need your ideas. We need to fight back.

☞

From the April Forum Speaker Zach D. Roberts

THE NEWEST JIM CROW

As Donald Trump takes this nation by storm—a storm of another type is brewing in Secretary of State offices across this nation. Under the guise of protecting America from "voter fraud"—a multi-tiered attack on our voting rights is happening.

For the last 10 years I've worked with investigative journalist Greg Palast uncovering the ways that those in power try to stop you from voting. Palast uncovered the real story behind the stolen election of 2000. It wasn't hanging chads or Ralph Nader that took the election away from Al Gore—it was Secretary of State Katherine Harris. Harris held two roles then, the person who counts votes and co-chair of George W. Bush's election campaign in Florida. The Secretary made a list, like some evil Santa Claus that had tens of thousands of mainly African American names on it. She labeled them "felons" and then purged their names from the voter rolls. The problem? None of them were felons; they all still had the right to vote. She got away with it as the nation blamed everyone and everything but her.

Sixteen years and two wars on from that theft, the Republicans have realized that they can get away with stealing people's votes as long as they first label those people as criminals. Our latest investigation comes in here, not in the sunny beaches of Fort Lauderdale but in Kansas. Secretary of State Kris Kobach has a new list, this time with over 7 million names, and it's growing every day. The list is called Crosscheck and includes voters' names from over 28 states. Kobach claims, with Republican candidates and guys like Dick Morris parroting the line—that his list will root out double voters.

Crosscheck accomplishes this feat by matching similar names on states' voter rolls. For example: John Lawrence Jackson and John Frederick Jackson would match, as would John Jackson Jr. and John Jackson III. Do you see the problem here? Kobach's list is matching similar names, including family members and people who don't even share the same initials. Palast explains, "Twenty-three percent of the names—nearly 1.6 million of them—lack matching middle names. 'Jr.' and 'Sr.' are ignored, potentially disenfranchising two generations in the same family." That issue alone is a problem, but the real evil here is not what doesn't match, but what does.

Due to the legacy of slavery African Americans are dramatically more likely to have similar names. People with names like Jackson, Jefferson and Williams are all proportionally more likely to be black than white. Same goes for Hispanic and Asian names. There are very few white men or women with the last name Gonzales or Chang in this country. So what happens when you build a list that purges people with similar names from the voter rolls without matching things like full social security numbers or even full dates of birth? What happens when it's run by a guy like Kris Kobach, who has endorsed Donald Trump—solely because Trump wants to build a wall along the Mexican border?

Come to the April 14th meeting of the Broadway Democrats and I'll tell you. We'll be showing a portion of Greg Palast's The Best Democracy Money Can Buy.

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Save the Date! & Support the Broadway Democrats!

On **Sunday, May 1, 2016**, the Broadway Democrats will host our annual Spring Fling, at the restaurant, **107 West**, 2787 Broadway, between 107th and 108th Streets, from **3:00-6:00 p.m.** Please join us for food, drinks, conversation, and camaraderie. More information will be available at the meeting and will be sent via email and invitations.

Membership

In order to vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention, amendments), you must be an eligible, voting member of the Broadway Democrats. You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues. Dues partially defray the costs of presenting forums and putting out this newsletter. Dues are \$25; senior dues are \$10.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interests: _____

The Broadway Democrats
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FIRST
CLASS

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District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,
Paula Diamond Román
President: Pat Almonrode
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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