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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Luis Román ♦

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***Everyone is invited to this free event.***

**Hear a discussion of the issues.**

**Bring your questions.**



*COME HEAR*

**CONGRESSMAN  
ANTHONY WEINER**

*(from New York's 9<sup>th</sup> District)*

*DISCUSS*

**HEALTH CARE  
REFORM**

**Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm sign in/refreshments \* 8:00 club business \* 8:30 forum

**Congregation Ramath Orah**

**550 West 110th Street (off Broadway)**

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Volume 34, Issue 9

November 2009

## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

You will be reading this after the election but production deadlines force me to write it before, so not being a clairvoyant I can't yet write my election analysis. But I fearlessly predict that Thompson will have done surprisingly well.

I'm looking forward to our Health Care meeting, where Congressman Anthony Weiner will explain the technical and political ins and outs of the debate. He has been a stalwart, intelligent and witty backer of a strong public option. My major talking point for us in our own conversations with people to is that we should not buy into the usual "liberal vs. conservative, compromise is necessary" rhetoric. This may have some validity if the issue were, say, an economic stimulus bill, where we would want to spend more but we might have to compromise down with more moderate Democrats who wanted to spend less. But in the case of the public option, it is significantly less expensive than the alternatives, and there is no opposition whatsoever from "moderate" voters who might otherwise support the plan. The opposition is coming entirely from two sources: Republicans, who want to kill any bill because Obama supports it, and the health insurance industry, which opposes a public option because it cuts into their profits. The public option is better from every capitalistic argument the moderates might throw at us: it spends less taxpayer money, it provides more competition, it gives both people and doctors and other health care providers more choices. That's my framework, and I'm sure Congressman Weiner will say it much better than I.

☞

## Assembly Member's Report

Daniel O'Donnell

Our community is a wonderful place to live: abundant green space, great transportation,

abundant cultural offerings, exemplary public schools. Young families are rightly attracted to the area as an ideal place to raise children, and the need for additional classroom space cannot be reasonably denied.

A rare opportunity is taking shape that will bring another desirable educational option to the community. As part of the Community Benefits Agreement negotiated between the West Harlem Local Development Corporation and Columbia University, Teachers College agreed to open a neighborhood, K-8 school in Community Board 9. I have fully supported this effort and indeed attempted to negotiate the school's placement at PS241 on West 113<sup>th</sup> Street when DOE threatened to phase PS241 out in place of a charter school.

Locations in West Harlem are now under serious consideration, and the public is invited to be part of the conversation. Community meetings will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>; for more information, please contact my office at 212-866-3970.

I am excited about this opportunity, have urged that this be planned as a neighborhood school, and look forward to continuing the conversation. The public schools belong to all residents of New York City and it is only fitting that this one arise out of a community demand and with the input of all.

☞

## Steering Committee

Richard A. Siegel

The next month will determine how healthcare is reformed in this country. At this writing, both houses have proposed bills that include a public option. Over the next month, each house will debate and argue the merits.

The action to watch is in the Senate. 60 votes will be needed to end a filibuster and allow floor debate of the bill. Deals will have to be made to get to that number. Before that, we will be inundated with ads

that, often with mis-information, will urge people to call their electeds and oppose this or that part of the bill. The final bill will be different than what we see now. Let's hope the public option survives.

Both Senator Schumer and Congressman Weiner have shown consistent public leadership on health care reform. Let's make certain to thank them loudly and often.

RL

## Letter to the Editor

### 2009 Judicial Convention Chooses Billings

**Lucy Adams Billings** was chosen at this year's Democratic First Judicial District Convention on 24 Sept. 2009 for the seat vacated by John Stackhouse. While there was no contested vote at the convention (all candidates were nominated but withdrew in favor of Billings), the previous week saw much political activity and lobbying by some of the candidates and their "handlers," so that by the evening of the convention, the die was cast. The delegate strengths were: Kern 54 (according to her campaign manager Joanne Saccone); Billings 100+ (according to Billings); Gesmer 2 to 4; and Scarpulla 1 to 3 pledged delegates. (Sixty-five votes were needed of the 128 total delegates.) The total of the votes claimed by each candidate exceed 128—you figure.

There was much-a-do, with Billings in the lead with the "she has seniority" vote, "it's her turn" vote, and "she's nearing retirement age" vote (as she expressed at the forum where all active candidates spoke on 16th Sept.), while Cynthia Kern gave Billings a run-for-the-money on the "elect-a-gay" platform according to the consensus of pundit commentators. Ellen Gesmer tried to get some votes for show to enhance her chances next year. Laura Drager, Matthew Cooper, Faviola Soto weren't running. First-time-out Deborah Kaplan was meeting and greeting delegates to become known and Scarpulla wanted to try anyway. There were no other contenders. And surprisingly, all active candidates agreed to provide the media with copies of their County and OCA applications. Should prove interesting who will actually do so.

The screening panel reported Civil Court Judges **Deborah Kaplan, Matthew Cooper,** and **Ellen Gesmer** as the three "most highly qualified" of the twelve applicants (eleven lower court judges and

one attorney) who appeared before the New York County Democratic Party's screening panel for the single State Supreme Court vacancy in the First Judicial District (Manhattan).

These three were considered at the First District judicial convention along with five others known as "2/4" candidates (**Laura Drager, Saliann Scarpulla, Cynthia Kern, Lucy Billings,** and **Faviola Soto**; however, Soto, Drager, and Cooper withdrew from consideration).

The Party's "2/4" rule says that a candidate for County-wide judicial office who is "reported out" by two screening panels in the previous four consecutive years, may be considered as "panel screened"—and need not re-submit to a panel—for the next four years (excluding any year wherein there is no real "open" vacancy; that is, say, should there be no vacancy or only seats of incumbents seeking re-election).

The names of this year's screening panelists follow. In parenthesis are the names of the organizations' whose titular heads, acting in their individual capacity, appointed these panelists; that is to say, no organization *per se* appointed a panelist. The panelists voted in rounds by secret ballot, voting for the three each panelist considered the "most highly qualified" of the twelve applicants. A majority of votes for three was reached after the third round of voting.

- Shoshanna T. Bookson, Esq. (N.Y. State Trial Lawyers Assn.)
- Peter L. Cedeno, Esq. (Dominican Bar Assn.)
- J. Patrick DeLince, Esq. (Nat'l Employment Lawyers Assn., N.Y.C. Chapter)
- Jo Ann Douglas, Esq. (N.Y. Woman's Bar Assn., N.Y.C. Chapter)
- Marti Golden Greenberg (N.A.A.C.P. – Mid-Manhattan Branch)
- Heidi Harris, Esq. (American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers)
- Christin J. Masimore, Esq. (M.F.Y. Legal Services)
- Freddy Molano, M.D. (Community Health Care Network)
- Hae Sung Nam, Esq. (Asian American Bar Assn. of N.Y.)
- Thomas Sciacca, Esq. (LeGal)
- Barry Thomas, Esq. (Metropolitan Black Bar Assn.)

Alan Flacks

## 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 \$20; senior dues are \$5.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

The Broadway Democrats

P.O. Box 1099

Cathedral Station

New York, NY 10025

FIRST

CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell

District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,

Paula Diamond Román

President: Luis Román

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Congressman Anthony Weiner: Health Care

Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 8:00 p.m.

Congregation Ramath Orah, 550 West 110<sup>th</sup> Street (off Broadway)