
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Noah Kaufman ♦

November General Meeting:

What's Next?

Now that we have a Democratic Congress and (*finally!*) a Democratic State Senate, join us for a conversation with elected (and re-elected) officials, activists, and members of some winning local campaigns* to discuss where we can go from here.

** list still in formation*

Thursday, November 15

7:45 p.m. registration

Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. sharp!

Bank Street College

610 W. 112th Street

(between Broadway and Riverside Drive)

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President's Column

Noah Kaufman

November, a Month of Transitions

November is a very busy, awkward month. We enter Autumn, we set the clocks back an hour, we cheer our NYC Marathon runners, and we celebrate three Citywide public holidays: Election Day, Veterans' Day, and Thanksgiving.

We are awed, again, at nature's artistry repainting each leaf on every tree. And we thank our City Parks Workers for collecting and composting the leaves after they drop.

We are astounded by our neighbors, and club members, who join the mass of athletes at the starting line of the marathon, and who travel the grueling course across the 5 boros. They show us "it can be done."

City schools are closed for Election Day, and along with various community centers are transformed into polling places. Poll workers are up at 4 am to open and unpack the vote materials. Each station is open until 9 pm, and then must be checked, counted, and repacked. Talk about a marathon of civic engagement!

The Go Blue 2018 Committee of the Broadway Democrats ran a marathon measured in weeks, not hours. The commitment, enthusiasm, and effort of the Committee and its members were remarkable, and played an important part in the wave that flipped Congress Blue. Broadway Democrats show that it can be done!

November 11 is Armistice Day, marking the end of "The Great War." Humanity had to rename that horrific conflict not a generation later when the world was inflamed by the Second World War. We remember our veterans, and their families. And we remember that we, our nation, our military forces, are still at war across the planet.

Which brings us to Thanksgiving. We see how we work better when we work together. May we all be truly grateful for the food and clean water we receive. May we remember here in this metropolis, the richest city in the richest nation in the world, we have neighbors who are hungry each day. Let us

continue our hard work to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Thank you for all that *you* do. See you at the Club Meeting!



District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

Election Results: Mostly Great

In our community the results were fantastic: the turnout was the highest in the history of off-year elections in the 40+ years I've been around to study them, nearly doubling the 2014 vote. The Democratic percentages were awesome – Governor Cuomo's 90% in our 69th AD Part C was the *lowest* percentage of any Democratic candidate, but that was because third party candidates got the same 5% as did the Republican Molinaro. No Republican candidate got more than 6% in our district; no Republican candidate got as much as 10% in *any ED* in our district. Our voters were monumental in number, and passionate in their determination to show that issues matter, honesty matters, and that in the United States democracy can sometimes be thwarted but it cannot, ultimately, be denied.

In the region, nothing like this has happened since at least 1964: Democrats picked up three House seats in New York, four in New Jersey, three in Eastern Pennsylvania, and an incredible *eight NY* State Senate seats, giving them either 39 or 40 total, depending on how one counts Simcha Felder, to only 23 for the non-Felder Republicans. (On that score, Democrats must demand that Felder either pledge to vote for the Democratic State Senate Majority Leader candidate in perpetuity or be kicked out of the Democratic conference; the deals he's made with the Republicans are not only boondoggles for his district, they're odious abuses of public policy such as allowing Yeshivas to ignore state education requirements.) There are now only four Republican Members of Congress within 150 miles of NYC. One is a moderate, Fitzpatrick of

Pennsylvania; two are sometimes moderates, King of Long Island (a strong advocate for New York's interests, though he's horrible on immigration), and Smith of New Jersey (a Right-to-Lifer but sympathetic to immigrants and fairly liberal on economic issues). That leaves only the reactionary and reprehensible Zeldin of Long Island as someone who's bad on all issues, and he won by only six points. We'll get him next time.

In the country, there were many great House results, and the Democrats won control by a significant margin. We will now have Nancy Pelosi as Speaker, and Elijah Cummings, Adam Schiff, and our own Nita Lowey and Jerry Nadler holding significant committee chairmanships. The three incumbent Democratic Senators who clearly lost came from almost impossible-to-win Red States. Even there, the wonderful Jon Tester held on, as did the better-him-than-a-Republican Joe Manchin. The only terrible news out of non-Red states/districts came from Florida and Georgia, where Senator Nelson and Gubernatorial candidates Gillum and Abrams appear to have lost. The Republicans ran their usual lying and racist campaigns, but make no mistake about why these Democrats (appear to have) lost: *the elections were stolen*, by blatant voter suppression, and in the counting process itself. If we had an honest Supreme Court, these tactics wouldn't stand. But we don't.

Lessons I: We're Now a Little Ahead for 2020. If you take the 2018 Democrat House vote in each state, the Democrats get 318 Electoral Votes. Even without close Iowa and Banana Republic Florida, the Democrats still have more than 270 presumptive electoral votes. Of the three famous Rust Belt states that Trump narrowly flipped in 2016, Pennsylvania and Michigan voted overwhelmingly Democratic, Wisconsin a bit more narrowly so. *And all three elected Democratic Governors*, so it will be much more difficult to suppress and fix the vote in those states next time. It won't be easy, but maybe it's the Republicans now who must play catch up.

Lesson II: People Power Matters! I've never seen anything like the citizen action that propelled the Democrats this year. The first Obama election was maybe more inspiring but, notwithstanding all the great volunteer efforts, that was mainly coming from the top. This year was a swarm of mini-campaigns. Has any local campaign ever had more, and more inspired, volunteers than those of Max Rose and Antonio Delgado? If you couldn't make it to the Hudson Valley or Staten Island, you could take the subway to Bay Ridge to help Andrew Gounardes. And if you couldn't do that, you could stay home or join your neighbors to write

post cards for Rose, make phone calls for Delgado, or stay up late and phone into Nevada. Every campaign gathering I went to had different people, but yet they were all the same. Everybody wanted to make a difference. And we did.

More election results in Mary Peppito's article below



Disclaimer: unless otherwise indicated, items herein reflect the views of their authors only. They are published as a part of our club's commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas on topics of interest, but their publication should not be construed as an endorsement by the editor, the Steering Committee, or the Broadway Democrats club.



Up for Debate: Progressive Populism will Save the Democratic Party Aaron Kaufman (Boaz Kaufman, ed.)

On October 11, 2018, my brother and I attended an Intelligence Squared ("IQ2") debate at the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College. The motion before us: "Progressive populism will save the Democratic Party." What angle should Democrats take to win elections? How do we get voters to vote Blue and to stay that way? It was an eye-opener.

Speaking in favor of the proposition were Jeff Weaver, the 2016 campaign manager for Bernie Sanders, and Karine Jean-Pierre, senior adviser at MoveOn.org. Opposing the motion were Jonathan Cowan, President of Third Way and HUD Administrator under President Clinton, and Steven L. Rattner of Willett Advisors LLC.

IQ2 founder Bob Rosenkranz introduced the program, noting how important the topic was just a month before the election. Audience members used their phones to indicate their "pre-debate" opinions; I voted in favor of the motion, as did 33% of the audience.

Weaver opened in support of the progressive argument. He set the stage discussing populism and nationalism in the early 1930s. He referenced the New Deal in the United States and the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, and analogized the political climate of the 1930s to the present. Weaver concluded that rapid progressive change is possible and is necessary to resist nationalism and corporate interests.

Cowan began by reminding the audience of the underlying question of the debate: how will Democrats win elections? He provided statistical evidence that moderate candidates have historically been more successful. He asserted progressives win only in districts that already leaning Blue. The goal, he said, is not to further entrench democratic strongholds but to flip conservative districts and assert a foothold in swing districts.

The rest of the debate largely echoed these opening remarks. Both teams were eloquent and committed; however, the progressive team kept returning to an unrealistic argument: the progressive agenda consists of good ideas that will benefit all of society; promises of radical improvements to social benefits will win elections. This talking point was easily countered by the moderate camp's repeated reference to historical fact: the overall success of progressive candidates in the United States over the past 50 years is very poor. Radical changes have been proposed often and even attempted in a variety of cities and states, but the progressive team failed to provide any strong examples of cost effective and lasting progressive policies.

After the closing arguments we attendees voted again. I was surprised to find myself persuaded to support the conclusion that moderate political change is the key to long term progressive success. Many others seemed to agree: before the debate 40% of the audience opposed the motion (a slight plurality), but in the final vote 74% opposed it.

Although I voted against progressive policies for the Democratic Party, I am still personally very fond of progressive policy ideals. I believe in single payer healthcare, campaign finance reform, criminal justice reform, net neutrality, strong environmental protection and climate regulation, fair and impartial redistricting, gender equality, LGBTQI rights, racial justice, mass transit, fair housing, free college tuition, collective bargaining, taxation reform, expanding the social safety net, automatic voter registration, gun control, and a path to citizenship for immigrants and asylum seekers. I believe that significant federal investments in the public good will greatly reverse the pessimistic socioeconomic trends of the past decade. And, of course, it stands to reason that such universally beneficial reforms should be implemented as soon as possible. The key word is "possible."

Recently I read this analogy: "The US is a large wooden ship. We are being propelled by three hundred million voters rowing the oars of society." I like this metaphor because it symbolizes our collective interdependence as a society. We exist in a balance of constant competition between

individual desire and collective necessity. We are a system that is only as strong as its weakest link. Our democracy turns slowly, and progressivism can't happen overnight.

I believe that prudent leaders can best harness the Blue Wave of Democratic energy by indulging in moderation. It is tempting to fight fire with fire and adopt a far-Left stance against Trump's far-Right rhetoric. But Trumpism draws power from conflict. Instead, Democrats need to advocate for tried and true policies that carry proven mass appeal. Instead of shooting for the moon and demanding "utopia now," Democrats need to rally behind the cause of making our government institutions as effective as they can be. Only after incrementally improving the government can more intense progressive action be effective.

Listen at your convenience, and see what you think:

<https://www.intelligencesquaredus.org/debates/progressive-populism-will-save-democratic-party>



We DID it!

We flipped the House, we crushed the IDC, we won the NY State Senate. In Short, we Won – "Bigly"!

Mary Peppito

Co-chair, Go Blue 2018

Let's start by giving ourselves a well-deserved pat on our backs! We rocked this country BLUE! The Blue Wave CRASHED all over! We knocked, we wrote postcards, we gave money, we called, we texted, we organized, we WON.

We won. Full stop.

Ignore those who parrot the Trump narrative that because we didn't win all of the seats (in Red states) that we wanted, we didn't have a referendum on him or we didn't cause a wave. NOT TRUE.

First let's talk about New York and New Jersey, where DEMOCRATS CRUSHED IT!!!

In New York, we did what no one thought we could – we helped flip Staten Island! We were tireless in knocking on doors, writing postcards and making calls and texts to help **Max Rose** (D) beat incumbent Dan Donovan (R) in NY11 and **Antonio Delgado** (D) beat incumbent John Faso (R) in NY19. In NY22, we donated and made calls to help **Anthony Brindisi** (D) beat the odious incumbent

Claudia Tenney (R). Also, **Joe Morelle** (D) won the race to succeed Louise Slaughter against Jim Maxwell (R) in NY25.

In New Jersey the Blue Wave was a tsunami! We crashed over New Jersey bringing in four seats to Congress and returning **Robert Menendez** to the Senate. Democrats now hold 11 of New Jersey's 12 congressional seats. **Jeff Van Drew** (D) South Jersey's 2nd District, previously held by the GOP for more than two decades; **Mikie Sherril** (D) easily won in North Jersey's 11th District; and Democrat **Tom Malinowski** defeated Republican Leonard Lance in the 7th District. In the 3rd District, Republican Tom MacArthur was defeated by **Andy Kim** (D).

In New York, we won the State Senate majority! **Andrea Stewart-Cousins** will become the first woman to lead either house of the state Legislature! In Brooklyn, **Andrew Gounardes** (D) beat incumbent Senator Marty Golden (R)! In the Hudson Valley, we had a big Democratic wave: **Peter Harckham** (D) beat incumbent Senator Terrence Murphy (R), and we took three open seats with **Monica Martinez** (D) beating Dean Murray (R); **James Skoufis** (D) beating Tom Basile (R), and **Jen Metzger** (D) beating Ann Rabbit (R). Even on Long Island, we flipped seats: **Jim Gaughran** (D) beat incumbent Senator Carl Marcellino (R), **Kevin Thomas** (D) beat incumbent Senator Kemp Hannon (R), and **Anna Kaplan** (D) beat incumbent Senator Elaine Phillips (R).

And on the national level, Trump was soundly rebuked. Here's a list of his failures not already mentioned (with thanks to Ally Maynard for compiling):

- Incumbent **Sherrod Brown** (D) in Ohio beat Trump-endorsed Jim Renacci (R) to keep his Senate seat;
- **Tammy Baldwin** (D), openly gay Senator from Wisconsin, beat Trump-endorsed Leah Vukmir (R);
- **Conor Lamb** (D) beat Trump-backed Keith Rothfus (R) for a Congressional seat that Trump said was a "must win";
- Incumbent **Joe Manchin** (D) defeated Trump-endorsed Patrick Morrissey (of whom Trump had tweeted, "I need his MAGA, total endorsement);
- **Sharice Davids** (D), openly gay Native American, beat back Trump-backed candidate Kevin Yoder in (of all places) Kansas, 3rd CD;
- **Laura Kelly** (D) won the governorship over Kris Kobach, the Trump-endorsed disgraced vice-

chariman of the bogus Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity (hello!);

- **Dean Phillips** in Minnesota won against Trump's "strong endorsement" of Erik Paulsen, his Republican opponent;
- **Lauren Underwood** (D) won in Illinois' 14th CD, beating Trump-backed Randy Hultgren (R)
- Incumbent Senator **Debbie Stabenow** (D) held off Trump-backed John James (R) in Michigan;
- **Abby Filkenauer** (D), at 29 years old, unseated Rod Blum (R) who had Trump's "strong endorsement" for Congress in Iowa;
- **Gavin Newsom** (D) won big for Governor of California over Trump-backed John Cox (R);
- **Abigail Spanberger** (D) handily beat Trump-backed Dave Brat, who had Trump's "strong endorsement" (and who had gained his seat by deposing Eric Cantor, then Republican House Whip, with a challenge from the Right);
- **Tony Evers** (D) trounced the "very special" Scott Walker to win the Wisconsin Governor's race;
- **Susie Lee** (D) crushed Trump-backed Danny Tarkanian in Nevada's 3rd CD;
- **Haley Stevens** (D) beat Trump-backed Lena Epstein (R) in Michigan's 11th CD;
- **Joe Cunningham** (D) proved that South Carolinians didn't want Trump-backed Katie Arrington in the state's 1st congressional district;
- Openly gay **Jared Polis** (D) is the Governor-elect of Colorado, beating Trump-backed Walker Stapleton;
- **Gretchen Witmer** (D) beat Trump-backed Bill Schuette (R) by over 300,000 votes for Governor of Michigan;
- Despite Trump's declaration of them as "winners both," two Republicans lost as the Blue Wave swept over Nevada: Dean Heller (who lost his Senate seat to **Jacky Rosen**) and Adam Laxalt (who lost his bid for Governor to **Steve Sisolak**);
- Trump-backed candidate Jeff Johnson (R) lost his bid for Minnesota Governor to **Tim Walz**;
- Trump-backed candidate Karen Handel (R) lost her GA-6 House seat to **Lucy McBath** (D);
- **Harley Rouda** (D) ("super liberal") unseated Putin's favorite Trump-endorsed Congressman, Dana Rohrabacher (R) in CA-48;

- **Elissa Slotkin** (D) unseated Trump-backed Mike Bishop (R) in Michigan's 8th CD;
- Trump-endorsed Bob Stefanowski (R) lost his bid to unseat CT Governor **Dannel Malloy**;
- **Tim Kaine** (D) crushed Trump-backed challenger Corey Stewart (R) in Virginia's Senate race;
- Trump-backed Congressman Pete Sessions (R) was sent packing by **Collin Allred** (D) in deep Red Texas;
- Trump flew to Montana multiple times to throw his full support to Matt Rosendale (R) for Senate, but **Jon Tester** (D) nevertheless prevailed;
- **Bob Casey** (D) won easily against Trump-supported Lou Barletta (R), even though Trump held multiple rallies for Barletta and tweeted "we need lou" and "lou barletta will win";
- **Mike Levin** (D) won the seat vacated by Darrell Issa, against Trump-backed candidate Diane Harkey (R); and
- **Kendra Horn** (D) won against incumbent Republican Congressman Steve Russell in a deep Red CD in Oklahoma that Trump won by 17 points in 2016.
- And just to say it again, in a BIG ONE for me personally, newcomer **Max Rose** (D), against ALL odds, won against Republican stalwart and Trump-endorsed Dan Donovan

Still pending: as of press time, the Senate race in Florida (**Bill Nelson** (D)) is going to a recount, and votes are still being counted in the Georgia Governor's (**Stacey Abrams** (D)) and Arizona Senate (**Kyrsten Synema** (D)) races. (True to form, Republicans are busy filing lawsuits *against* counting votes in these three closely contested elections.) A number of House seats from California also are still to be decided.

What's Next?

Keep this momentum going! Some ideas:

- We need to start thinking about how to organize for potential future special elections in CA50 and NY27, the two districts where corrupt Republican incumbents barely retained their seats despite both being under Federal Indictments.
- We had the highest youth voter turnout in over 25 years! How do we engage with more young people and keep them politically engaged?

- We need to keep expanding our base of voters. We had a lot of gains in voter registration. We need to keep that going for the next two years.
- And of course, we need to continue to work on partnerships with all of the other incredibly effective activist groups in our area.

Remember, **we did this!** Every contribution, every postcard, every text, every call, every knock made this BLUE WAVE happen. New York's army of volunteers made all the difference. Thank you everyone for your amazing energy and work. Now is the time to harness this momentum to keep making gains all the way to 2020!

GO BLUE! We are making incredible things happen!



The Fault, Dear Voters, Is Not in Our Facebook Ads, But in Our Machines Susan Crawford

With apologies to Shakespeare, I propose we refocus our ire over election outcomes in the U.S.

Since 2016, Congress and the mainstream media have inveighed against social media for hosting hostile takeovers of our brains with ads planted by Russian trolls. I am happy to see such ads disappear, but shouldn't we be more concerned about voting machines – still in use – that literally can alter votes? Or trolls who hacked voting rolls in multiple states and may have helped supply names to be purged by [Kris Kobach's Interstate Crosscheck?](#)

The Facebook ad controversy is a colossal distraction from [the vote and voter suppression that Greg Palast has uncovered](#), as those who've followed his reporting know. As presented at a Broadway Democrats forum back in Spring 2016 (arranged by Steering Committee member Joe Nunley), votes are even "fractionalized" – that is, counted for less than a full vote – in some jurisdictions. It seems that Republicans who oversee the election apparatus in many states don't care how much they win by, as long as they win.

That brings us to one of the central electoral stories of the moment: Georgia, where the Republican Party has kicked into high gear with both overt and covert efforts to keep Democrat Stacey Abrams out of the governor's mansion. Some of the "highlights":

- Brian Kemp, who as the state's Attorney General oversaw the election *in which he was also the*

Republican candidate, [tried to make it more difficult for thousands of voters \(mostly people of color\) to exercise their rights](#). At the last minute, [a federal judge kept the state from fully enforcing its “Exact Match” law](#), passed last year in an effort to suppress the vote.

- Even though “Exact Match” has been slowed down (for now), [Kemp has still overseen the improper purging of more than 300,000 voters over the last few years](#), according to evidence in a lawsuit filed by Palast.
- Researchers who “reverse engineered” Georgia voting machines last year were [appalled by how easy they were to break into and manipulate](#).

Of course, voter suppression is something of a tradition in Georgia. [As Palast reported after the 2017 special election to fill Tom Price’s seat in Congress](#), Interstate Crosscheck was used to deliver that race to Republican Karen Handel.

And today, absentee and provisional ballots are being counted in Georgia to determine whether there will be a runoff between Abrams and Kemp. Regardless of the outcome, the state should be required to prove that each vote has been counted – and that no voters were illegally prevented (or even just discouraged) from voting. Disenfranchising voters anywhere disenfranchises all of us.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Endorsed Candidates:

**Assemblymember Danny O’Donnell
State Senator-elect Robert Jackson**

and to

**Representative Jerrold Nadler
State Senator Brian Benjamin
Attorney General-elect Tish James**

and to

**Representative-elect Anthony Brindisi
Representative-elect Antonio Delgado
Representative-elect Alexandria Ocasio Cortez
Representative-elect Max Rose**



Duncan and Veteran enjoy some well-deserved rest after a long day canvassing for Delgado in Greene County

The Broadway Democrats Newsletter – November 2018

FIRST
CLASS

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