

You Vote to Conquer

by George Morin

The heavy waves of voters were rivaled only by the swarm of candidates and their supporters who politely but fervently reached out to Club members as they made their way to the ballot box.

Out to win

After turning out for three Candidate Forums in late April and early May to scrutinize the field, Lex Club members came to the Ruppert Community Room on East 93rd Street on May 19th determined to support the Democratic candidates they believe will prevail in September and November.

Long lines, long ballot

Long wait-times developed as every voter confirmed his or her membership with Lex Club officers and, when necessary, updated their dues.

The ballot was four pages long, including a full page of instructions. The offices of Comptroller and the six District Leaders were unopposed.

The offices of Manhattan District Attorney and Surrogate Judge each had two candidates.

The other major offices, Mayor, Borough President, Public Advocate and two City Council seats, each had multiple candidates. There were 16 Judicial Delegate candidates for 14 slots: 7 delegates and 7 alternates.

Preferential treatment

Envisioning that a "no majority" could result in tight multiple-candidate races, preferential balloting was used in those races. In preferential balloting voters rank the candidates in order of preference for each office.

No hanging chads

Polls closed at nine sharp and Club volunteers hunkered down to count the daunting four-page ballots.

Also present were interested observers – some representing candidates and others representing a wholesome love of horse races.

With over 250 four-page ballots to count, the last vote wasn't called until 11:26 p.m. Tallies were checked and double checked and the results announced:

Mayor:

Ferrer (14)
Fields (29)
Miller (182)
Weiner (23)

Public Advocate:

Benjamin (5)
Golub (0)
Gotbaum (179)
Siegel (48)

Borough President:

Ellner (3)
Espaillat (0)
Lopez (8)
Manzano (10)
Michels (3)
Moskowitz (46)
Perkins (2)
Stringer (181)
Johnson (0)
Wright (0)

District Attorney

Morgenthau (155)
Crocker Snyder (92)

Surrogate:

Booth Glenn (37)
Markewich (182)

City Council Dist. 4:

Garodnick (192)
Karako (0)
Lester (57)

City Council Dist. 5:

Cesnik (2)
Lappin (151)
Price (1)
Quart (102)
Spitz (8)

Judicial Delegates:

Delegates
Schiff
Tisch
Rosenstock
Peyre
Mills
Mason
L. Foa
Alternates
C. Foa
Coyne
Stern
Krull
Marks
Moss
Levinsohn
Leifer*
Glenn*

*withdrew candidacy

Comptroller Thompson and six District Leaders ran unopposed and are also endorsed. **LDC**

Officers and Elected Officials

President

Alexander Tisch

Executive Vice President

Lillie Balinova

Vice Presidents

Jennifer Coyne
James d'Auguste
Cathy Finlayson
Andrea Kaufman

Treasurer

Meg Laporte

Recording Secretary

Heather Kim Leifer

Corresponding Secretary

George Morin

District Leaders

Meryl Brodsky
Conrad Foa
Linda Foa
Sally Minard
Lawrence Rosenstock
Arthur Schiff

State Committee

David L. Cohen
Trudy L. Mason

U.S. Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

State Senate

Liz Krueger

State Assembly

Jonathan Bing

City Council

Gifford Miller, Speaker
Eva Moskowitz



VOTE COUNTERS: Background: Alex Tisch, Meg Laporte, Trudy Mason, James d'Auguste, David Cohen; Foreground: Lou Sepersky, Leida Snow, George Morin. (More vote photos inside.)

Council Speaker Gifford Miller is working to secure city budgets that reflect New Yorkers' values and protect their children's futures.

Miller recently created NYC's first Earned Income Tax Credit program, eliminating City income taxes on working families struggling to emerge from poverty.

In reaching a \$47 billion budget deal for 2005, the Speaker forced the City to invest in reducing public school class sizes for the youngest children and prevailed upon the Mayor to restore draconian cuts in child care, senior centers, libraries and proven HIV/AIDS and infant mortality prevention programs, thus saving 2,500 day care slots and eliminating taxes for 700,000 of the neediest families.



Speaker Gifford Miller

CITY HALL

Home Rule

Councilmember Eva Moskowitz recently hosted a Home Rule Forum at Hunter College, during which she and prominent tenant leaders answered tenants' questions regarding how to eliminate the Urstadt Law to bring about Home Rule. She said: "Lawmakers in Albany should not be making decisions about rents here in New York City.

"The Home Rule Message which I sponsored will grant New York City the autonomy it needs to make sure thousands can remain in their homes or find affordable housing."

Recent Test Results

The councilmember warned not to be too hasty in congratulating the mayor's office on the results of the statewide 4th and 8th grade tests.

The State Education Department reported that the percentage of NYC 4th graders meeting grade level in English jumped from 49.6% in 2004 to 59.5% in 2005. However, Ms. Moskowitz noted that scores are up 8% statewide, and other urban districts showed an even bigger jump than the city's. She stated that closer examination of the test results was needed "before we can pat ourselves on the back."

— Robin Marsico

THE STATE ASSEMBLY

I am pleased to announce the commencement of my monthly "office hours." Beginning June 10th, I invite constituents to the District Office on the second Friday of every month between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Though constituents are always welcome to visit our office anytime, "office hours" provide an opportunity to discuss the issues facing the community directly with me. My District Office is located at 360 East 57th Street (entrance between 56th and 57th Streets) on the

Mezzanine Level.

In Albany, I have introduced legislation that would add "sex" as a protected category within the New York State Constitution. Working with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, an indefatigable supporter of women's equality legislation, and State Senator Tom Duane, I look forward to New York becoming the 21st state with an equal rights amendment. In order to garner support for the legislation, I recently was the keynote speaker at a presentation held by the New York State Bar Association Committee on Women. In addition, I am proud to report that legislation (A. 3454) requiring state agencies to promptly notify not-for-profit organizations concerning contract renewals passed the Assembly.

— Assemblymember Jonathan Bing

THE STATE SENATE

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), by September 2006 New York State must replace our trusted lever machines with a new, modernized voting system.

Feet dragging

As usual the leadership in Albany has been dragging their dysfunctional feet for close to three years. Now the situation has come to a head as the Legislature must act by December to receive full federal funding. But last week the conference committee on HAVA broke down without any substantive agreements.

The lobbying contracts associated with the companies that sell voting machines total over \$1 million, and will make millions more if the State punts the final decision on the machines to the counties.

ALBANY

Electrons vs. paper

While much of the debate has focused upon fears of stolen elections, it really comes down to an electronic system versus a paper-based optical scanning system. The Senate Democrats are fighting for optical scan machines because they secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible.

The optical-scan machines produce a permanent paper record of the voting that can be manually audited and is an official record when recounts are called for.

New Yorkers deserve a voting system in which they can have confidence and will ensure transparent, publicly verifiable elections.

— Senator Liz Krueger

THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney joined members of the New York Congressional Delegation and urged the president and Congress not to withdraw 9/11 aid for injured responders.

Millions for 9/11 heroes threatened

The loss of funds would jeopardize \$120 million in workers compensation for hundreds of responders injured in the terrorist attacks.

Congresswoman Maloney said, "It's wrong to pull back promised federal aid for medical treatment and other needs. We need these funds to assist those that were injured by the attacks."

WASHINGTON

Fighting cuts to youth education

Maloney also moved with eleven of her colleagues to stop deep cuts to the U.S. Department of Education TRIO programs. If the cuts are approved, New York State will lose over \$18 million and 50 programs that serve more than 19,000 young New Yorkers.

The TRIO programs enable young people from low income households to develop the skills and motivation they will need for post-high school success. LDC



DEAR LEX CLUB MEMBERS:

Summer is almost upon us and with it the unofficial beginning of the campaign season. The Lex Club has an active schedule of campaign activities for the membership to participate in. Almost 270 club members participated in the club's endorsement vote on May 19th. I congratulate the victors and encourage all members to help out the campaigns.

The Club itself will be circulating petitions containing the names of our endorsed candidates starting on June 7th. If you would like to help out with petitioning please contact members of the campaign committee or myself. In addition to petitioning we will also be sending members out to campaign for our endorsed candidates, most of this activity will take place after petitioning is over in July.

One of the things I noticed during our endorsement process is how many young people are running for office at all levels. It is a tribute to the strength of the Democratic party in this city that it remains a place that welcomes candidates regardless of age, gender, race, religion and sexual orientation. All New Yorkers should feel they are represented by their elected officials and when one looks at all the Democrats running this year it is clear that will be the case should the electorate vote Democratic in November.

Sincerely yours,

Alex Tisch

President, the Lexington Democratic Club

“Excuse me. Are you a registered Democrat?”

Looking them straight in the eye with a smile on your face and cheerfulness in your voice often stops even the busiest pedestrians.

Throw in a nice, polite, “Excuse me. Are you a registered Democrat?” and you’re half way home to another signature on your petition.

That is, of course, *if* your target is a registered Democrat.

If not, don’t worry. Even the grumpy ones who snarl and declare they’re Republican will appreciate your “thank you” as you turn and smile at your next target.

I get a kick out of asking the most “Republican looking” people if they’re registered Democrats. And I’m often rewarded when they turn out to be Democrats and happily sign my petition.

The Club’s Petitioning Committee, Lillie Balinova, Larry Goodman and Heather Leifer, have put together a handy guide about circulating petitions.

When you receive your petitions (*You are getting petitions, aren’t you?*) the guide will be included.

The guide includes information about who can sign petitions (registered Democrats who

live in the respective districts the candidates are running in) and who can witness petitions (registered Democrats from New York State).

Other tips you’ll find in the guide include:

- You fill in the date
- Get the signature first
- Print the name so it can be read
- Get the street addresses only
- If an error occurs, cross it out and initial it
- Complete the witness statement
- Make sure the number of signatures is correct
- Be certain the dates are sequential
- Sign your name with the address where you’re registered to vote

The bottom line is, petitioning in New York State is the price of admission to elective office. Without petitioners behind them, our elective officials would get nowhere.

So sign up to petition for the Club’s candidates now. Our city, our state and our country need you.

Call or email Lillie, Larry or Heather. Their contact information is in the box to the right.

— George Morin

PETITION FOR CANDIDATES

June 7th to July 14th

For more information
and to volunteer, contact:

Lillie Balinova

(212) 404-5574

email: lilliebalinova@aol.com

Larry Goodman

(917) 972-2964

email: lbgesq@aol.com

Heather Leifer

(646) 643-8109

email: hleifer@nyc.rr.com

See it all at www.lexclub.net

Voting the old fashioned way

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: State Senator Liz Krueger; detail of old-fashioned voting “machine;” Club members studying their ballots; an ardent supporter, Assemblymember Jonathan Bing and Meredith Ballew; District Leader Arthur Schiff with Assemblymember and Borough President candidate Scott Stringer.



Jonathan Bing

by State Assemblymember

"Where I Stand"

ABOVE THE FOLD:

ABOUT PETITIONING

• AND NEWS AND VIEWS

• ELECTION NIGHT PHOTOS

ALBANY AND WASHINGTON

• NEWS FROM CITY HALL

• HOW WE VOTED

INSIDE:

1202 Lexington Avenue, Suite 337, New York, NY 19128
www.lexclub.net

THE Lexington Democratic CLUB

NEWS

JUNE 2005

WHERE I STAND

A Fair & Balanced Vendor Law

by Assemblymember Jonathan Bing

The issue of street vendors is an important matter in our neighborhood and throughout the city. So it is imperative that



we balance the interests of the community and local merchants with the rights of street vendors to make a living.

The City Council recently proposed a law that seeks to streamline the city's vendor laws. In my testimony to the City Council's Committee on Consumer Affairs, I opposed that bill.

Negative impact on community

While I agree that the rules regulating street vendors need to be standardized, I am apprehensive that the proposed legislation could have a serious negative impact on vendor activity and on the quality of life in our community.

234% increase of licenses

I am also concerned that the bill will repeal much of the current local vendor legislation, eliminate the Street Vendor Review Panel, open up nearly all city streets and avenues to vending, and increase the number of general vendor licenses from the current 853 to 2,000 in the next two years.

Business decline on 86th Street

I do not think that such an expansion is necessary to simplify regulations.

East 86th Street, for example, has already seen a decline in the number of small, locally-owned businesses. An increase in vendor activity would undoubtedly result in greater competition for these rent-paying business owners and could lead to an even greater decline in small business activity.

Further, by eliminating the vendor review panel, the bill would remove the city's ability to keep vending regulations and restrictions current and relevant.

More difficult to monitor

The dramatic increase in vending licenses would also result in an increase in the number of legal and illegal vendors on our streets – making it even more difficult for our hard-working police force to monitor.

Undoing progress

Last year, I co-sponsored a law strengthening penalties for impersonating a disabled veteran vendor and have authored legislation this year that would further strengthen these regulations. The City Council bill would undo this progress.

Sidewalk and street congestion

In addition, the legislation allows up to six vendors per block – setting up a situation where we could conceivably have 24 vendors within 20 feet of an intersection. This could cause serious problems for traffic and pedestrians alike.

Police and merchants

I have worked closely with the 19th Police Precinct, local neighborhood and merchant organizations, as well as in the Assembly, on the issue of vendor regulations. I support improving the way vendors are monitored.

A fair balance of rights

However, I think we must consider the ramifications of our decisions carefully. That's why I will continue to work for fair, responsible regulations that balance vendors' rights with their neighbors' rights. **LDC**