



October 2019

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

- **Nicholas Zvengitzov**
on Transportation
- **Nominating Committee Election**
- **North Shore Civil Court
Endorsement Vote**
- **Federal Gun Control Legislation
Position Paper**
- **Update from Pat Kane on NYSNA
Contract Negotiations**



Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 8:00 P.M.
Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314



Editorial Policy

Items for publication should be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: cmaxbauer@yahoo.com.

Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and not of S.I.D.A.

Chris Bauer, Editor
(917) 576-9248

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“I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical.”

- Thomas Jefferson
1787

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

November	November 4
December	December 2

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President..... Radhakrishna Mohan	Member at-Large	Clara Ogburn
Vice President	Member at-Large	Emmanuel Dami
Executive Secretary		Ojo Powerson II
Corresponding &	Member at-Large	Jasmine Robinson
Recording Secretary	Member at-Large	Sharon Santana
Treasurer	Ex Officio.....	Michelle Akyempong
Social Secretary	Ex Officio.....	Bobby Digi
Member at-Large	Ex Officio.....	Belinda Dixon
Member at-Large	Ex Officio.....	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large	Ex Officio.....	Joann Olbrich
	Ex Officio.....	John Mastellone

S.I.D.A. President's Statement

October 2019

On September 17 the newly elected County Committee Members gathered for the Democratic Committee of Richmond County organizing convention to elect a new leadership slate. As expected, and as made known earlier in a letter signed by Assemblyman Michael Cusick and Laura Sword after reaching a negotiated compromise, the new team was voted in by almost 400 County Committee Members with only eight opposed and one abstention. The Staten Island Democratic Party now has new leadership looking ahead to the many challenges ahead and to elections in November.

In his September 28 *Staten Island Advance* column Tom Wroblewski was stated that "Cusick is the right pick for Democratic Chair." The article also pointed out that "Party stalwart Laura Sword had announced a challenge for the leadership, but eventually stood down...Sword will be a Vice-chair of the party (and)...a number of reforms important to the rank and file will be instituted, including term limits for the chair. Dems can expect more diversity on the party's ruling executive committee."

The Republican Party of Staten Island has also elected their leadership with Brendan Lantry as the Party Chair, who avowed his focus would be winning back the NY-11 House seat and getting Republican Civil Court nominee Bob Helbock elected to the bench on November 5. I guess we Dems have some work to do with our own candidates in the fray, and we all look forward to a tough year ahead. Well, that being said, it is time to focus on strengthening the Party and to keep what we have won already.

Let's pivot to S.I.D.A.'s activities with our focus of hosting a successful Annual Dinner Gala. We have chosen a great list of honorees, who deserve recognition for their dedicated service to all Staten Islanders and to their respective communities. By the time you read this newsletter our Annual Dinner will have taken place since it is scheduled for October 10. Also, S.I.D.A. will be conducting an election at our next general membership meeting, on October 15 for the Nominating Committee in preparation for our yearly elections in January, 2020.

An important thing happening now on the national front is the Democratic majority House of Representatives is moving toward President Trump's impeachment. Preparations for this eventuality are underway by most elected Democrats on the national scene, and our own Staten Island Congressman Max Rose announced his support for an impeachment inquiry of the President at his town hall October 2.

Radhakrishna Mohan

S.I.D.A. President

"Ask not what your country can do for you, Ask what you can do for your country."

- President John F. Kennedy



Nicholas Zvegintzov

Nicholas Zvegintzov will be a guest speaker at our October 15 General Membership Meeting and will talk about transportation. He provided the following for publication in the newsletter.

The Politics of Transportation Around, To, From, and Through.

Transportation on the island is a continual battle to get around, to, from, and through. That's around, to, from, and through the island, and around, to, from, and through the political jungle. The Transportation Chair of Community Board 1 shares current battles.

Nicholas Zvegintzov has been Transportation Chair of Community Board 1 since 2014. Earlier he was Chair of the Ferry Riders Committee, and pushed the campaign to get the half hour ferries. He also led the study of development on the harbor waterfront 'Visions of the North Shore of Staten Island' (<https://youtu.be/QYzVOofueL0>). Further away, he is also co-author of 'Siberian BAM Guide - rail, rivers, and road'.



October 15 Meeting Agenda

- **Nicholas Zvegintzov on Transportation -**
see above
- **Federal Gun Control Position Paper –**
the paper was printed in the September Newsletter and will be presented by Issues Committee Chair Richard Reichard
- **Nominating Committee Election –**
see page 5
- **1st Municipal Court Judge (North Shore Civil Court seat) Endorsement Vote -**
Democratic Candidate Edwina “Winnie” Martin addressed the club at our September meeting (see meeting minutes, page 6)
- **Update from Pat Kane on New York State Nurses Association Contract Negotiations**



Nominating Committee

Below are excerpts from the [S.I.D.A. constitution](#) pertaining to the election of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII Elections

Section 1: Time Officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the ieannual meeting. (Article IV, Section 1: Annual Meeting The annual meeting of the club shall be in January, on a date to be fixed by the Executive Committee.)

Section 2: Nominations

a) Nominating Committee At the October meeting there shall be elected by ballot a Nomination Committee of nine members of the club. Balloting for members of the Nominating Committee shall conform, as nearly as may be, to the procedure for election of members-at-large of the Executive Committee as set forth in Section 4b of this Article. The Nominating Committee shall select nominees for each of the offices and for members-at-large of the Executive Committee, which selection shall be made by majority vote of the Nominating Committee. At the November meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the members of the club a written report setting forth the nominees for various positions. If requested by two members of the Nominating Committee, the report shall include a minority report in which additional nominations may be made for any position or positions and such nominees shall be deemed to have been nominated in addition to the nominees of the majority. The report shall also set forth the procedure for nomination by petition.

b) Nomination by Petition Additional nomination may be made by petition signed by 15% of those members in good standing or 15 members, whichever is fewer, as of the final date for the submission of such petitions namely the December meeting at which all candidates shall be presented to the membership as an order of business. Nominating petitions shall be submitted to the Corresponding and Recording Secretary, or in his or her absence to an officer designated by the President or Acting President.

c) Nomination from the Floor Nominations from the floor may be made only in the event that no eligible candidate has been otherwise nominated for an office.

d) Notice All names of persons nominated will be included in the mailed notice of the annual meeting.

Traditionally the way the above by-laws have been implemented is that at the October meeting members in good standing in attendance are given a ballot listing all the club's members in good standing. (One must have been a member for at least 45 days in order to vote.) Members then mark up to nine people on the ballot, and the top nine vote-getters form the Nominating Committee, with the person getting the most votes being the chair. If there is a tie for the ninth place, all those in the tie get on.



September 2019 Minutes

**General Meeting
September 24, 2019
Oriental Plaza
1845 Richmond Avenue**

President Mohan called the meeting to order at 8:22 p.m. He reminded members to follow the ground rules so that the meeting runs smoothly. He mentioned that County elected a new chair and officers on September 17. President Mohan reminded members that the club's annual banquet is scheduled for October 10. He urged members to purchase their tickets and journal ads. He added that Social Secretary Pearl Minsky and her committee are working hard to prepare for the banquet. Roy Moskowitz provided the following link for those who would like to purchase a ticket on-line. **Tinyurl.com/S.I.D.A.58**

Vice President's Report

Vice President Liz Price provided members with a brief summary from the August 29 Executive Committee meeting.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown mentioned that our regular meeting was supposed to be on September 17 but County called for the organizing convention for that evening, so S.I.D.A.'s Executive Committee voted to move the meeting to the following week. Dennis mentioned that County is off and running with new leadership. He mentioned that there were a lot of changes made to the by-laws. Dennis mentioned that ads and ticket sales for the upcoming banquet were low. He urged members to pay for their tickets and purchase ads for the journal. Joann Olbrich announced that she had extra invitations for anyone that needed them.

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretary Pearl Minsky mentioned that she went shopping for centerpieces for the banquet. She also said there would be musicians and dancing at the banquet. She urged members to attend the event and said she tried to make it more exciting.

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker Edwina "Winnie" Martin, Candidate for Civil Court Judge, 1st Municipal District, told members that she is actively campaigning for the civil court judge seat. She spoke about her education, professional background and her major accomplishments. Ms. Martin also spoke about her goals and vision if elected. She told members that it has been her dream to become a judge. She feels her campaign is operating from a strong place. Ms. Martin introduced her campaign manager, Selena Gray. Selena spoke about the robust campaign and urged S.I.D.A. members to volunteer to attend events with Edwina. Selena also mentioned that they are accepting donations, and there are palm cards and lawn signs available. She also mentioned a fund raiser scheduled for October 16. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in helping with Edwina Martin's campaign.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided members with current report including money deposited and expenses that were paid as well as other upcoming expenses. She reported that so far she has received money for 30 tickets (3 tables of 10). She urged members to solicit additional ads for the journal.

Public Relations Committee

Chair Roy Moskowitz reported that he will continue to send out e-mail announcements regarding the upcoming club banquet.

President Mohan reported that some S.I.D.A. members participated in the recent Black Heritage Celebration on September 21. Steve Schwall mentioned that DORC will be purchasing tickets and an ad for the S.I.D.A. banquet.

President Mohan announced that the newsletter deadline is September 30 and the next General meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1. He also gave kudos to Chris Bauer for his hard work as S.I.D.A.'s newsletter editor.

Announcements

Clara Ogburn announced the following events:

- September 27 - NAACP Black and White Dinner Friday, Phil Jonas is being honored
- October 10 - S.I.D.A.'s Annual Banquet, The Crystal Room, 7:00- 11:00 p.m.
- October 26 - Peace Action's Make Food Not War Dinner, Olivet Presbyterian Church

Nick Popolo distributed flyers "Information on Early Voting". Tom Shcherbenko spoke about the County convention held on September 17 and reported that new officers were elected with only 8 people opposed. Steve Schwall gave kudos to Laura Sword and Nick Popolo for their hard work in leading efforts for new county leadership. Marie Dwyer gave kudos to Joann Olbrich who also worked very hard along with Laura, Nick and other people.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



NYC Ballot Measures

New York City will have five ballot measures on the ballot this November. The following was taken from [Ballotpedia](#)

November 5, 2019 Ballot Measures in New York

Ballotpedia is covering the five proposed charter amendments combining a total of 19 proposals on the ballot for New York City voters on November 5, 2019.

The [New York City 2019 Charter Revision Commission](#) voted five proposed charter amendments the November 2019 ballot. The ballot questions consist of 19 different proposals combined into five questions each addressing different topics.

HIGHLIGHTS

- [Question 1 \(Elections\)](#) includes a proposal to establish ranked-choice voting for primary and special elections in the city.
- [Question 2](#) contains five proposals concerning the city's Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), including proposals to provide for a minimum budget for the CCRB based on the number of NYPD officers, allow the Public Advocate to appoint one CCRB member, and authorize the city council to appoint members without confirmation from the mayor.
- [Question 4](#) includes a provision to set minimum Public Advocate and Borough President budgets.

[Ballot Question 1, New York City Elections Charter Amendment: Ranked-Choice Voting, Vacancies, and City Council Redistricting Timeline](#)

A **yes** vote is a vote in favor of amending the city charter to do the following:

- establish [ranked-choice voting](#) to be used for primary and special elections beginning in 2021;
- increase the time between a city office vacancy and the special election to fill it from 45 days (60 for mayor) to 80 days; and
- change the timeline for city council redistricting to complete it prior to city council nominating petition signature collection.

A **no** vote is a vote against amending the city charter regarding elections policy, thereby

- leaving in place a plurality (or first-past-the-post) system for most city elections;
- leaving the time between a city office vacancy and the special election to fill it at 45 days (60 days for mayor); and
- leaving the timeline for city council redistricting unchanged.

[Ballot Question 2, New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board Charter Amendment](#)

A **yes** vote is a vote in favor of amending the city charter to do the following:

- add two members to the 13-member Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)—one appointed by the Public Advocate and one jointly by the mayor and speaker of the council;
- allow the city council to appoint members directly without the mayor having final appointing authority;
- require the CCRB annual budget to be enough to hire employees for at least one CCRB for

every 154 police officers (0.65% of the city's police force) unless the mayor determines that fiscal necessity prevents it;

- add to the city charter the requirement that the city police commissioner to provide an explanation to the CCRB whenever the board's disciplinary recommendations aren't followed;
- authorize the CCRB to investigate the truthfulness of statements made during its investigation of complaints; and
- allow the CCRB to delegate its authority to issue and enforce subpoenas.

A **no** vote is a vote against amending the city charter regarding the CCRB, thereby

- leaving 13 board members, with five designated by the city council and three designated by the police commissioner and all final appointments made by the mayor;
- leaving no minimum budget requirements based on a ratio to police officers;
- leaving a 2012 agreement in place that the city police commissioner provide a report to the CCRB when disciplinary recommendations aren't followed but without a provision requiring it in the city charter;
- leaving existing practices of the CCRB in place to forward evidence of false statements during investigations to the NYPD for investigation; and
- leaving the CCRB, but not certain CCRB staff such as the CCRB executive director, with authority to issue and enforce subpoenas.

Ballot Question 3, New York City Ethics and Government Charter Amendment

A **yes** vote is a vote in favor of amending the city charter to do the following:

- increase the amount of time after leaving service before elected city officials and senior appointed officials can appear before the city agencies in which they served from one year to two years;
- replace two of five members of the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) appointed by the mayor with a member appointed by the comptroller and a member appointed by the public advocate;
- prohibit members of the COIB from involvement with city office campaigns and restrict contributions from COIB members to campaigns to between \$250 and \$400 depending on the office;
- add to the city charter a requirement that the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) to report directly to the mayor and to require a mayoral office for the M/WBE; and
- require city council confirmation of the city's corporation counsel appointed by the mayor.

A **no** vote is a vote against amending the city charter concerning the Conflicts of Interest Board and the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE), thereby

- leaving the block of time required before certain city officials can appear before their former agencies at one year;
- leaving all five existing mayoral appointments to the COIB;
- leaving COIB members without additional restrictions on campaign involvement and contribution limits;
- leaving no requirements concerning reporting by the director of the M/WBE to the mayor or concerning supporting roles for the M/WBE in the charter; and
- continuing to authorize the mayor to appoint the corporation counsel without city council

confirmation.

Ballot Question 4, New York City City Budget Charter Amendment: Revenue Stabilization Fund, Public Advocate and Borough President Budgets, and Reporting by Mayor

A **yes** vote is a vote in favor of amending the city charter to do the following:

- authorize a rainy day fund to go into effect with required state law changes;
- set minimum Public Advocate and Borough President budgets based on the 2020 fiscal year adjusted based on inflation or the total change in the city's total budget;
- move the deadline for the mayor's revenue report (excluding property taxes) to the city council from June 5 to April 26; and
- set a deadline of 30 days for the mayor to submit changes to the city's financial plan requiring budget changes to the city council.

A **no** vote is a vote against amending the city charter regarding certain elements of the city budget, thereby

- leaving charter provisions precluding a rainy-day fund in place;
- leaving the Public Advocate and Borough President budgets set through the standard budget process;
- leave the deadline for the mayor's revenue report to the city council at June 5; and
- leaving no specification about when the mayor must submit certain budget changes to the city council.

Ballot Question 5, New York City Land Use Charter Amendment: Uniform Land Use Review Procedure Requirements

A **yes** vote is a vote in favor of amending the city charter to do the following:

- require the Department of City Planning (DCP) to provide a summary of Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) projects to the Borough President, Board and Community Board affected by the project 30 days prior to when the project application is certified for review by the public and
- increase the amount of time allowed for review of the ULURP projects by the affected Community Boards from 60 days to either 75 days or 90 days, depending on timing.

A **no** vote is a vote against amending the city charter concerning certain elements of reporting and review timing with regard to ULURP projects.



Staten Island Early Voting

The information below was taken from the [NYC Board of Elections website](#).

INFORMATION ON EARLY VOTING

New Yorkers will now have an additional option to cast their vote in the 2019 General Election this Fall. From Saturday, October 26th through Sunday, November 3rd, select sites across all five boroughs will offer early voting in advance of Election Day on November 5th. Voters will continue to have the option to cast an absentee ballot if they choose to do so.

All Voters are assigned to an Early Voting Poll Site.
Visit nyc.pollsitereg.com to find your site.

EARLY VOTING

HOURS

Saturday	October 26, 2019	10AM to 4PM
Sunday	October 27, 2019	10AM to 4PM
Monday	October 28, 2019	9AM to 5PM
Tuesday	October 29, 2019	7AM to 8PM
Wednesday	October 30, 2019	9AM to 5PM
Thursday	October 31, 2019	9AM to 5PM
Friday	November 1, 2019	7AM to 8PM
Saturday	November 2, 2019	10AM to 4PM
Sunday	November 3, 2019	10AM to 4PM

STATEN ISLAND

Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex
625 Fr Capodanno Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10305

College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314

IS 24
225 Cleveland Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10308

Staten Island Technical High School
485 Clawson Street, Staten Island, NY 10306

PS 6
555 Page Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10307

IS 75
455 Huguenot Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10312

IS 61
445 Castleton Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301

PS 44
80 Maple Parkway, Staten Island, NY 10303

PS 57
140 Palma Drive, Staten Island, NY 10304



Make Food Not War Dinner



Honoring Staten Island Peacemakers

Jim Clark Vietnam Veteran and Peace
Activist

Staten Island Women Who March
Sarah Blas Richmond Terrace Therapeutic
Gardens

Jack Bolembach Coalition For Wetlands
and Forests

Saturday, October 26, 2019

5:00 to 8:00 pm

Olivet Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
97 Myrtle Avenue (at Broadway)
In West Brighton, Staten Island

For more information: [pasi.contact@
gmail.com](mailto:pasi.contact@gmail.com)

Buy tickets, journal ads, or make a donation
below:

Regular ticket \$50. At the door \$60.
(Limited Number of sliding scale tickets \$20
available by emailing pasi.contact@gmail.com)



*Join us
in celebrating
Miss Belinda A.
Dixon's Birthday!*



October 27, 2019

6pm-10pm

LiGreci's Staaten Caterers

697 Forest Avenue

Staten Island, NY

\$70 per person

Advance tickets only!

No tickets sold at door.

Mail check to:

Belinda Dixon

168 Brabant St. 6D Staten Island, NY 10303

For more info please call:

Ermell	Peggy	Belinda	Joy
Abdul-Halim	Campbell	Dixon	Robbins
347-866-3073	718-316-5378	917-915-3329	718-816-4128

Bulletin Board Policy

Items posted on the Bulletin Board are done so at the request of an S.I.D.A. member and are for informational purposes only. A posting on the Bulletin Board does not imply endorsement by S.I.D.A.

October 15, 2019 General Meeting 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Pat Kane on NYSNA Contract Negotiations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholas Zvegintzov on Transportaion • Nominating Committee Election • North Shore Civil Court Endorsement Vote • Federal Gun Control Legislation Position Paper 	November 19, 2019 General Meeting 8:00p.m. Oriental Plaza, 1845 Richmond Ave.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating Committee Report

It's Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!

To become a member, renew membership, or make a donation, call Bonita Rothman at (917) 596-3724, or complete and return the coupon. Voting privileges begin 45 days after joining.

✂

2019 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$25 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$20 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$15 Unemployed	_____ \$100
	_____ Other _____

_____ Check (payable to: S.I.D.A.) _____ Cash

I understand SIDA is a Democratic Party club. I (or we, if this is a Family Membership) am (are) at least 17 years of age and an enrolled Democrat, or intend to enroll as a Democrat upon becoming eligible.

Signature _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Make checks payable to S.I.D.A. and send to: S.I.D.A.
P.O. Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

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