

Staten Island Democratic Association
P.O. Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Staten Island,
NY
Permit 699

If you do not see 2020 on your label,
please pay your 2020 dues.
(See inside back cover)



October 2020

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

**Congressman
Max Rose**



Brandon Patterson,
Candidate, 64th A.D.



Allyn Crawford,
Candidate, Civil Court Judge



Nominating Committee Election

(per our Constitution, one must attend in person to vote)

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 8:00 P.M.

BOTH IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

O'Henry's Publick House, 10 Minthorne Street

Via Zoom, see page 14



Table of Contents

- S.I.D.A. President’s Statement ...3
- Congressman Max Rose4
- Executive Committee Election Process.....5
- September 2020 Minutes.....6
- Absentee and Early Voting.....8
- Letters.....10
- Campaign Websites13
- Instruction for Attending Monthly Meeting14
- Upcoming Meetings15
- Join-Renewal Form15

Submission Deadlines

for the newsletter are:
 November ... November 2
 December.. November 30

Editorial Policy

Please submit items for publication in 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*

“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*

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| President.....Radhakrishna Mohan | Member at-Large.....Olusoji Oluwole |
| Vice President Liz Price | Member at-Large..... Jill Pincus-Latman |
| Executive Secretary.....Dennis Brown | Member at-Large..... Jasmine Robinson |
| Corresponding & Recording Secretary..... Marie Dwyer | Member at-Large..... Charles Roland |
| TreasurerBonita Rothman | Member at-Large..... Sharon Santana |
| Social Secretary..... Pearl Minsky | Member at-Large..... Tom Shcherbenko |
| Member at-Large..... Clara Ogburn | Ex Officio..... Bobby Digi |
| | Ex Officio.....Joann Olbrich |

October 20, 2020

**General Meeting, 8:00 p.m.
 O’Henry’s Publick House,
 10 Minthorne St.
 Via Zoom, see page 14**

- Congressman Max Rose
- Brandon Patterson, candidate, 64th Assembly District
- Allyn Crawford, candidate, Civil Court Judge
- Nominating Committee Election

November 17, 2020

**General Meeting, 8:00p.m.
 Venue TBD**

- Speaker TBD
- 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.

----- ✍ -----

2020 DUES		DONATION
_____ \$25 - Family		_____ \$5
_____ \$20 - Individual		_____ \$50
_____ \$15 - Senior, Student, or Unemployed		_____ \$100
		_____ Other _____

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

I understand S.I.D.A. 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

For internal use only:
 Comp: _____ Received \$: _____ Deposited \$: _____ Entered Sht: _____ Computer: _____

The October 20 General Membership Meeting will take place both in person and via remote conferencing. The details for both are listed below.

Please note, to vote for the Nominating Committee, per the S.I.D.A. Constitution, one must attend in person

**Staten Island Democratic Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
8:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Attending in Person

Location: **O’Henry’s Publick House, 10 Minthorne Street**



Attending via Zoom

This meeting can be attended audio and video by computer, audio and video by cell phone, and audio only by landline phone.

AS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE ZOOM MEETING BEING HACKED, THE ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE E-MAILED TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE INVITEES THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.



October 2020

Was It a Presidential Debate or a Debacle?

Those who expected something to come out of the Presidential Debate, such as substantial facts regarding the direction the country should go in, felt very disappointed by President Trump’s irrational and belligerent behavior. Trump turned the Debate into nasty personal attacks on Vice President Joe Biden, who did his best to make the Debate purposeful for the millions of people who watched worldwide.

At this time, with people looking forward to a second Debate, Trump has now tested positive for COVID-19, been admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he only stayed a few days, and then returned to the White House, on Steroids and multiple extremely powerful and sophisticated medications not available to the general public yet. One would have expected that he learned something after his exposure to COVID-19, but again it is a big disappointment as he has tweeted and communicated to the world that we should not be frightened by the virus and said, “maybe I’m immune.” The President is not out of the woods yet, and he is taking this exposure to Coronavirus in his usual brash style. His behavior is something truly disrespectful to the families of hundreds of thousands of Coronavirus victims, as they felt very insulted regarding the pain they endured by

their loss and sufferings. The next few days will provide more information on the President’s health status and whether there may be a second and third Debate. Be on the watch for all these developments. We are now less than a month from the General Election and we will see how things will unfold by the time the next S.I.D.A. Newsletter is sent out. But, we keep our faith and look for the change that everyone hopes will come about and for an end to Trump’s presidency and his severe lack of leadership. You can challenge yourself and do the best you can to assist any phone banking efforts, to display lawn signs and help the local candidates and our Congressional candidate to win.

As for S.I.D.A., we must engage in an action plan to do our part during this most challenging time the nation is facing. It is very important to look at the logic and facts provided below by Jerry H. Goldfeder, who is a special counsel at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, and who teaches Election Law and the Presidency at Fordham Law School, and is the author of Goldfeder’s Modern Election Law. I am simply sharing his article for your attention and understanding of how serious this election may turn out to be.

“There is some rumbling that President Trump’s supporters may attempt to deny Americans the right to vote in the presidential election. I am not referring to the vigorous efforts to limit mail-in ballots or even

(continued on page 11)



Congressman Max Rose will be a guest speaker at our October 20 General Membership Meeting. His office provided the following for publication in the newsletter

An army veteran and former non-profit healthcare executive, Congressman Max Rose proudly serves New York’s 11th Congressional District, representing Staten Island and South Brooklyn. He lives in the St. George neighborhood of Staten Island with his wife, Leigh, and their son, Miles.

Upon being sworn in, Max pledged to fight for Staten Island and South Brooklyn and focus on the transportation needs of his district, fighting the opioid epidemic, and rooting out corruption in Washington.

Max currently serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security. As a member from New York City, he will work to ensure our city and country are properly prepared to defend against any threats, while bringing fresh ideas and perspective to the Committee’s work, especially on emergency

preparedness and response, infrastructure protection, and transportation security.

As a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, Max is honored to also serve on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. Serving in Afghanistan, and now as a member of the National Guard, Max has seen firsthand how our service members and veterans struggle when they return home. It’s more important than ever that we take serious steps to improve veterans’ healthcare and make sure they can seamlessly access the benefits they earned. As the only combat veteran with experience in the healthcare sector set to serve in the 116th Congress, and Max believes he can bring a unique and much-needed background to these critical discussions. As a Member of the committee, he will work to get perverse incentives out of the system, deliver better and more affordable care, and ensure we are providing holistic care for those who put everything on the line to protect our country.



Copied below are the websites for the Democratic candidates in local races on Staten Island



college votes, including several swing states, such as Florida (29 electoral votes), Texas (38), Georgia (16), Arizona (11) and Ohio (18).

With only several months before Election Day, a change from popular voting to legislative fiat even in one state would be an egregious break from 145 years of history, custom and expectation, and modern constitutional jurisprudence. True, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states can choose whatever method they want to pick electors, but it did so in 1892, which preceded modern voting rights legislation and court decisions that protect voters from being disenfranchised.

Thus, it is highly doubtful that such a change in the 21st century would pass muster. But who is to say that worried supporters of the president wouldn't try to upend political and constitutional norms in this way? While there is already sufficient concern about voter suppression without thinking about such unheard-of scenarios, voters—and all those who cherish voting rights—should, nevertheless, be watchful.”

What we can understand from Jerry Goldfeder's article above is that we need to take this election very seriously, and explore the role that we all can play to save the country from sliding into even more division and bad leadership. Let's make the change for a better America with racial tolerance and true leadership.

Please get out and vote. Hoping you all stay healthy and safe,

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

(September 2020 Minutes, continued from page 11)

Order”. She mentioned that members must be physically present to vote. She added that we may be able to vote electronically but in order to do this we need to put it into the by-laws before we hold the vote.

Human Rights Committee

Chair Clara Ogburn reported that she attended the August 28th trip to Washington, D.C. and felt it was a great success. She also reported that the N.A.A.C.P. and Peace Action are working on helping ex-felons get their voting rights reinstated.

Issues Committee

Co-Chairs are Richard Reichard and Jasmine Robinson. Jasmine reported that she is still working on a paper regarding Solitary Confinement. The “Holt Act” is to stop solitary confinement for prisoners.

New Business –

Jasmine Robinson suggested allowing members to pay their annual dues through Act Blue. President Mohan said he will see if this is feasible since Act Blue charges a fee. President Mohan mentioned the need for a campaign committee made up of S.I.D.A. members. He also mentioned that only 50 % of Staten Island residents have filled out the 2020 Census.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary

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 annual 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 Nominating 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.

**General Meeting
September 15, 2020
Via Zoom**

President Mohan called the Zoom meeting to order at 8:00 p.m and reminded the S.I.D.A. members and the participants about the ground rules to conduct the meeting smoothly. He thanked all the participants for having taken time to attend the meeting. He reminded members that Charles Rolland is the Sergeant at Arms and will give members access to speak.

August Minutes

The minutes from August meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter.

President Mohan announced that Charlotte Mentzer had recently passed away and ask members to observe a moment of silence. President Mohan also mentioned that he wants to start a campaign committee to support local and national candidates. He asked members to e-mail him if they are interested in volunteering for this committee. President Mohan spoke about the terrible fires in the West and that President Trump denies climate control as a cause. He also mentioned that the unemployment rate has gone from 10.5 to 8.5 but many people are still unemployed and without income. COVID-19 continues to be a problem but numbers have gone down. President Mohan shared a film clip of Nelson Mandela pointing out that

it a mistake to think that the enemies of journalists should be his enemies.

1st Guest Speakers

Robert Diamond, Director of NYS for Biden Campaign, was also a senior aide to President Obama and Governor Cuomo. He mentioned that early voting will start on October 24 and people can vote by absentee ballot. He told members to go to www.iwillvote.com for more information. Mr. Diamond explained that Vice President Biden considers New York as extremely important. He encourages people to get out the vote here and also in other states. They are calling Democratic voters to make sure they have voted.

Elizabeth Schade of www.newyorkforbiden2020.com added that the goal is to get people to staff phone banks for the Biden Campaign. One can go to the following link to sign up www.newyorkforbiden2020.com/#phonebank. Amoy Barnes is also running a phone bank at www.mobilize.us/2020victory/event/324481. On Mondays and Thursdays there will be virtual meetings with Ms. Schade and discussion of the kind of district this is. Lots of people vote for Trump because they identify with the police and a strong police force. There will be a robust outreach on YouTube, Tik Tok and other platforms to meet people where they are at. League 46 is for younger voters. You can go to www.joebiden.com to sign in with

leadership in Washington. Taking their money comes with a price, voting with the leadership.

And this is not the first time she has sided with the Republican leadership. She said she would not have voted to lift the limit on state and local tax deductions, making constituents in the congressional district pay more in federal taxes. The Republican leadership was against lifting the limit.

Just think how she will vote on other Republican priorities, like raising the Medicare age to 67.

- Richard A. Reichard

*(S.I.D.A. President's Statement,
continued from page 3*

the GOP's \$20 million campaign to recruit 50,000 volunteers to challenge "suspicious" voters at polling places around the country. Nor am I referring to the President canceling or postponing the election, neither of which he can do. I am talking about the arcane U.S. constitutional provision that refers to state legislatures' authority to decide who picks presidential electors—the folks who ultimately elect the president. Let me explain.

As Hillary Clinton and Al Gore can attest, it is the Electoral College that chooses the president, not the voters, and the federal constitution gives Congress the right to schedule when they meet. Congress has set this date as the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, Dec. 14 This year. But who

chooses the electors? For the first 100 years of our history, voters sometimes went to the polls to do so, but usually states gave this decision to their legislature or governor. In fact, in the early days, states routinely changed procedures depending upon how they thought their favorite presidential candidate might fare under one method or another. Since 1876, however, each state has empowered its voters to choose the electors, on Election Day—this year, Nov. 3. This has not changed in 145 years.

In 2000, during the extended recount in Florida, Gov. Jeb Bush and his legislative allies almost departed from this long history and began the process of naming a slate of electors pledged to George Bush—even after the voters had gone to the polls. This extraordinary gambit, rendered unnecessary by the Supreme Court's decision in Bush v. Gore, is a cautionary tale for 2020. Can the states try to bypass the voters this year? Currently, there are 29 state legislatures controlled by Republicans, totaling 302 Electoral College votes—32 more than the 270 required to elect a president. If these states decided to re-write their laws to allow the legislature to directly choose electors, they could simply hand the election to Trump. Of these 29 states, however, eight have Democratic governors, who would presumably veto any attempt to circumvent the voters. This brings the potential game-changing switches to 21 states, totaling only 214 electoral

We in S.I.D.A. like to make our views known. The following are some of the letters written by S.I.D.A. members that have appeared in print. Unless otherwise indicated, all letters were in the Staten Island Advance and/or posted on the Advance's website www.silive.com. Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.

*On-line September 17, 2020
Printed September 19, 2020*

We Need a National COVID Response

The economy will not come back anytime soon if we starve the states that bore the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic. If more workers are laid off, that's fewer people providing services, buying things, fewer people with health insurance, eating out, paying rent or mortgages echoing down the chain. We need a lifeline and the G.O.P. is mouthing outdated ideologies.

America is not great when the President creates a culture war out of a major global health crisis. It's not great when he lies about the extent of the virus, politicizes the CDC, takes no responsibility for coordinating a national response and manipulates the data. It's not great when he threatens the schools with loss of funding, rather than providing the resources needed to do so safely. It's not great when he focuses on looters, praising right wing gun toting militias, while ignoring

the systemic racism that brought out enormous numbers of people in peaceful protests. It's not great when his enablers in the Senate and House are silent and don't hold him accountable.

We all want to work and open schools and businesses. These are not Democrat or Republican issues. We need a major safe and rational national response.

- Susan Rappaport

*On-line October 6, 2020
Printed October 12, 2020*

Malliotakis Won't Buck GOP Leadership

New York has absentee ballots, just like the absentee ballot Trump uses to vote in Florida.

Recently, the state passed legislation that will allow those concerned about the coronavirus to apply for an absentee ballot.

However, Nicole Malliotakis voted not to allow those concerned about the coronavirus from applying for and voting by absentee ballot.

This should not come as a surprise. The Republican leadership is trying to play down, even after 200,000 deaths, the seriousness of the coronavirus. Allowing those concerned about the coronavirus to vote by absentee ballot undercuts their effort to play down its seriousness.

If you look at Ms. Malliotakis' campaign contributions, you will see that she has taken thousands of dollars from the Republican

coalitions that you associate with. They are looking to register new and younger voters.

Amoy Barnes thanked Robert Diamond for his presentation and said she will be hosting a meeting on Mondays to get young people to vote. These meetings will teach people how to phone bank. Elizabeth Schade mentioned that your phone number is protected. Robert Diamond announced that they will also be hosting bilingual phone banks, especially in Florida and some of the southern states.

2nd Guest Speaker

Patricia Anne Taylor, Commissioner and current President of the New York City Board of Elections, explained that its mission is to conduct fair, bi-partisan elections. She mentioned the website www.vote.nyc for more information about voting. Commissioner Taylor mentioned that October 9th is the last day to register to vote. She said that you can register on the web site, it is fast and has the record. There are 10 Early Voting sites and they can also be found on the web site. Commissioner Taylor also spoke about requirements for people interested in running for office.

Commissioner Taylor explained that absentee ballots will be counted after Election Day, November 3rd, but if you vote early at an Early Voting poll site your vote will be counted after the close of polls on election night.

If you send in an absentee ballot there is a way for the Board of Elections to contact the voter to "cure" an error, e.g. if the oath envelope wasn't signed. Absentee ballots are cross checked against names of people who voted at a poll site, and if someone did vote at a poll site, their absentee ballot is not counted.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Liz Price presented highlights from the recent Executive Committee meeting. There was a lengthy discussion about how to conduct anonymous voting for the Nominating Committee election. It was decided to have the October meeting in the plaza outside O'Henry's Publick House.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown reiterated what Liz reported about the October meeting. He also complimented Joann Olbrich for all the work she did with Robert's Rules on virtual meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided members with an up to date report on club's bank balance, as well as incoming money and bills paid.

By-Laws Committee

Chair Joann Olbrich reported that she has reviewed both the old and new edition of "Robert's Rules of
(continued on page 11)



Board of Elections in the City of New York

VOTE SAFE, NYC

From now until Election Day the Board is offering three absentee ballot drop off options: **Board Offices Absentee Ballot Drop Off and Early Voting & Election Day Absentee Ballot Drop Off.** This will allow voters to drop off their completed absentee ballots without having to wait in line with other voters to minimize delays and promote contactless voting.

Board Offices Absentee Ballot Drop Off
Voters may drop off their ballots at any of our seven (7) offices from **9am-5pm.**
You will not have to wait in line.

Manhattan Borough Office	200 Varick Street, 10th Floor	New York, NY 10014
Bronx Borough Office	1780 Grand Concourse, 5th Floor	Bronx, NY 10457
Brooklyn Borough Office	345 Adams Street, 4th Floor	Brooklyn, NY 11201
Brooklyn Borough Office	345 Adams Street, 4th Floor	Brooklyn, NY 11201
Queens Borough Office	118-35 Queens Boulevard, 11th Floor	Forest Hills, NY 11375
Staten Island Borough Office	1 Edgewater Plaza, 4th Floor	Staten Island, NY 10305
General Office	32 Broadway, 7th Floor	New York, NY 10004
Executive Office	42 Broadway, 7th Floor	New York, NY 10004

Early Voting & Election Day Absentee Ballot Drop Off
Secure Absentee Ballot Boxes will be at all 88 Early Voting and 1,201 Election Day poll site locations. Early voting hours and locations can be found on vote.nyc. Voters may drop off their ballots at any New York City early voting location, poll site or borough office. Please note: **not all Early Voting locations will be available for drop off on election day (November 3); please check www.vote.nyc for your closest Election Day poll site.**



EARLY VOTING DAYS & HOURS

FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Saturday, October 24, 2020	10 AM to 4 PM
Sunday, October 25, 2020	10 AM to 4 PM
Monday, October 26, 2020	7 AM to 3 PM
Tuesday, October 27, 2020	12 PM to 8 PM
Wednesday, October 28, 2020	12 PM to 8 PM
Thursday, October 29, 2020	10 AM to 6 PM
Friday, October 30, 2020	7 AM to 3 PM
Saturday, October 31, 2020	10 AM to 4 PM
Sunday, November 1, 2020	10 AM to 4 PM

ELECTION DAY & HOURS

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6 AM to 9 PM

Visit findmypollsite.vote.nyc to find the poll site nearest you to drop off your absentee ballot.

To vote in person, you must vote at your ASSIGNED Early Voting Site or Election Day Poll Site

Go to
www.vote.nyc
 to find your early voting and election day poll sites
 and to apply for an absentee ballot