

Margaret Chin
City Council

Paul Newell
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District Leaders



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Dear Neighbor,

This year's Primary election on September 14 will be relatively quiet. Most local incumbents are not facing any challengers, so your mailbox and voice-mail won't be as full as some years. The ballot itself will have few candidates since there are few contests.

As a Reform club, we have met and interviewed the candidates in open, public meetings. After debate and deliberation, our grassroots members have decided the following candidates deserve your vote.

US Senate: Our current senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, who was appointed by Governor Paterson, has a challenger in her bid to be actually elected senator. The challenger, Gail Goode, is a lawyer and legal administrator from the Bronx. Goode is challenging Gillibrand, saying, "New Yorkers have a right to a Democratic primary."

We agree.

Although there was initial concern and controversy regarding Gillibrand's ascendancy to the Senate seat, she does have a proven legislative record and her positions have undergone a pragmatic transformation, bringing them more in line with voters downstate.

Nevertheless, it would be healthy for Gillibrand to actually be elected to office. While we applaud her challenger's spunk, **we endorse Kirsten Gillibrand for US Senate.**

Attorney General: There are five contenders to replace Andrew Cuomo as attorney general. Eric Schneiderman, state senator from the Upper West Side, is our pick.

Schneiderman has been a leader in fighting both corporate and governmental abuse and corruption. He authored the most sweeping ethics reforms in decades and led the charge to expel corrupt Senator Hiram Monserrate after he was convicted of a domestic violence crime. Schneiderman led the fight to end the Rockefeller drug laws and took on the MTA when it was wasting our tax dollars.

On the other hand, Assemblymember Richard Brodsky is an effective legislator, but his abrasive and aggressive style does not befit the position he is seeking.

Eric Dinallo, a former assistant attorney-general and the state-insurance superintendent, has an impressive record, but lacks the fire in the belly that Schneiderman has displayed.

Sean Coffey is a successful trial attorney, but has little public-service experience and we are unsure of his stand on many important issues.

Kathleen Rice is a Nassau County district attorney with little public service - and even less political experience. So little political experience in fact that after registering as a Republican in 1984, she did not bother to vote in a single local or national election until 2002! It wasn't until she changed her enrollment from Republican to Democrat to run in the Nassau County race for District Attorney in 2005 that she found her way into a voting booth again.

Furthermore, although admitting to youthful cocaine use, Rice nevertheless was a vocal opponent against reforming the unjust and draconian Rockefeller drug law.

Weighing all the candidates' pros and cons, **we endorse Eric Schneiderman for attorney general.**

US Congress: On the East Side of our district, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney is facing a challenge from a well-financed, young opponent, Reshma Saujani. Ivy-League educated, Saujani worked in several Wall Street hedge funds, as well as serving as a fundraiser for John Kerry.

However, she is simply too inexperienced to serve us the way Carolyn Maloney has. In fact, she just moved into the district last summer, in what some see as opportunism. Further, Saujani herself admits, "Maloney and I are probably going to agree or vote the same on 80 or 90 percent of the issues." So why is she running to unseat a champion of women's rights who has seniority in the House, a progressive and powerful legislator who has delivered billions in Federal money to our district for 9/11 victims and the Second Avenue subway, and who has championed the overhaul of credit-card regulations - to list just a few of Maloney's accomplishments?

Maloney has proven for two decades that she can deliver for us. It simply makes no sense for an ambitious, young candidate to challenge a competent elected official who has consistently delivered for us.

We endorse Carolyn Maloney for re-election to the East Side's 14th Congressional District.



Bloomberg's Proposals to Revise City Charter

In the general election on November 2 (not this September's Democratic Primary election), voters will revisit Term Limits, as well as a bundle of other issues packed into two controversial proposed City Charter amendments drafted by a Charter Revision Commission, whose members are all appointed by Mayor Bloomberg.

The first yes/no question asks voters whether to re-instate term limits for City offices to two terms,

from the current three terms that was enacted last year by the City Council.

A very powerful mayor's office can easily overpower neophyte councilmembers. Restricting the Council to two terms is putting further power into the mayor's hands.

However, should the electorate vote for a return to a two-term limit, the proposal paradoxically would allow the "Bloomberg amendment" to continue for incumbents. Incumbents would still be given three terms, again defeating the will of the people.

Another section of this yes/no question would bar the City Council from altering the term-limit rules in the future. Well, the courts have already affirmed the Council's ability to rewrite term limits - no matter what the Charter says.

We urge you to vote NO on Question #1 in November.

The second yes/no question on the ballot would shoehorn campaign financing, conflicts-of-interest, zoning, ballot access, voter-assistance functions, City tribunal and advisory-body administration, and other issues into another single yes/no vote.

Our executive committee was unanimous in feeling that the mayor's hasty rewriting of the Charter was a flawed procedure. Combining so many important issues into a yes/no question doesn't help. We urge you to vote NO on Question #2.

Vote NO on both Charter proposals. They aren't reforms. Send the Commission back to do its homework.

About DID...

The Downtown Independent Democrats reform club began in the loft district in 1972 in order to provide our community with vigorous, independent and progressive political leadership. DID has consistently fought for the implementation of sound and effective programs and public policy that serve the best interest of our neighborhood.

The DID has been making a difference for decades right here in your community. We took on the system, ousting the old Tammany Hall politics, and have remained an independent Democratic voice. We fought for (and won) moderate-income housing, loft legislation, small business protection, better schools, better parks, and neighborhoods made safer and with a better quality of life for our families.

Today we serve large parts of the Lower East Side, Greenwich Village, the East Village, the South Village, Village View, Little Italy, Chinatown, NoHo, SoHo, West SoHo, TriBeCa, Independence Plaza, Battery Park City, the Financial District and Governors Island.

Our members reflect the spectrum that denotes downtown. Many serve in civic associations, PTAs, labor unions, block associations, arts groups, tenants organizations, and the community board.

Some were born in the district; others were pioneers in the district's emerging neighborhoods. Still others are newer to the neighborhood, but share our keen sense of political activism. We welcome all.

Our endorsements of candidates are always made at open public meetings, often after lively debate

and discussion of the issues with the candidates themselves. We sponsor get-out-the-vote drives, organize voter registration and education efforts, and monitor the polling sites on election day to insure that the system is functioning properly.

If DID sounds like the kind of club that interests you, fill out this form and return it to us.

If you wish to become a voting member, also enclose \$25 dues for regular members, \$40 for couples, \$15 for students and seniors.

Mail to:

Downtown Independent Democrats
125 Greene Street 5th floor
New York, NY 10012

If you prefer to be on our email list, contact us at: info@didnyc.org

Visit us at: didnyc.org for community news, meeting notices and special events.

Join us on Facebook under *Downtown Independent Democrats*.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

We do not share this information with anyone.

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Democratic Primary Tuesday, September 14 OUR ENDORSED CANDIDATES

**NYS Attorney General
ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN**

**US Representative
14th Congressional District (East Side)
CAROLYN MALONEY**

**US Senate
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND**

General Election Tuesday, November 2 OUR ENDORSEMENTS

**CITY CHARTER REVISION
Question #1 – Vote NO
Question #2 – Vote NO**

Polls Open: 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

If you have any trouble voting or need any information, do not hesitate to call Downtown Independent Democrats for assistance at 212-460-9896, or email us at: info@didnyc.org, or call the Board of Elections at 212-VOTE-NYC. If you are unsure of where to vote, 212-VOTE-NYC will also supply you with your polling site.

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