



The New York Young Republican Club

Record

Letter from the Publications Chairman:



I joined the New York Young Republican Club in early 2021 and attended my first event in January. Despite being nervous to meet new people, I was ecstatic to socialize and converse with other like-minded individuals in such a deep blue city. Within 5 minutes of my first conversation, I knew I had made the best decision in my life since moving to New York City, back in 2017.

By my second event, I was so inspired by what this amazing club was and is doing that I knew I had to get more involved and help in whatever capacity I could. In March, I joined the Rules Committee to become the Vice Chairman and helped draft the rules for our newly acquired

Clubhouse. But my thirst did not stop there. I then approached our President, Gavin Wax, and asked him if I could write a short essay about my experience as a young conservative in NYC, to be released by the Club, with the hopes of reaching as many eyes as possible and inspiring others in the same situation. Not only did I get approval, but I also received the task of reviving the entire publication you are reading right now, The Record. With my new ad-hoc Board position, committee and feeling nervous I bit off more than I could chew, I accepted the task determined to release the best product I possibly could.

I am beyond proud of what my committee and I have accomplished and humbled to be writing this letter in what is now the 7th monthly issue of The Record, since its restart in May 2021. My hope and goal with this periodical is to inform our members of what we're doing and achieving as a club, and also what we have to offer to other Young Republicans in the NYC metropolitan area we have yet to recruit. I want to use this letter as an opportunity to let our members know that: if you are passionate and inspired and have the desire to write a piece, please reach out to me at Publications@NYYRC.com to have your article reviewed and published in The Record. I believe it is our duty to use our platform to give a voice to the everyday voiceless Young Republican, because "United we stand, divided we fall."

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for picking up this issue of the Record and taking the time to read it.

Nicholas Thomas Rafael Jr.
Publications Chairman
New York Young Republican Club

Programming

Last Month's Events

OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Purple Heart Mission Driver Volunteer Day	2 Brian Fox Crash Rally
3	4 James Pai Candidate Social with the Asian American Caucus	5	6	7	8	9 Vanessa Simon Crash Rally
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Oktoberfest Fundraiser with Lee Zeldin and Raheem Kassam
17	18	19	20 NYRC AAC Present Kangmin Lee	21	22	23 Vickie Paladino & Curtis Sliwa Crash Rally
24 SIYR Felicia Kalan Crash Rally	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 3rd Annual MAGAween Party						

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To anger a
conservative,
lie to him.

To anger a
liberal, tell
him the truth.

THEODORE
ROOSEVELT

This Month's Events

NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Election Night Watch Party	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14	15	16 Friendsgiving Flannel Social	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 Dreidelfest	29	30				

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I'm the only
person of
distinction
who has ever
had a
depression
named for
him.

HERBERT
HOOVER

Statements

Statement on Columbus Day



Today, the New York Young Republican Club honors Christopher Columbus, a monumental figure in world history and a symbol of Italian-Americans' foundational role in American society.

Christopher Columbus embodies values that are disappearing too fast from American society: a keen interest in the unknown, willingness to take risks, and determination to succeed where others have failed in the past. Columbus may not have originated the idea that the world was round, but he was the first one who took action to enable permanent settlement of the Americas. In doing so, he catalyzed the emergence of a new set of Great Powers and the expansion of the civilized world.

Today, the good name of Columbus is at risk; ongoing attempts to malign his reputation abound in the leftist media and in Democrat political circles. These critics insist on cherry-picking from his voluminous accounts of meeting with Indians to find behavior that they deem objectionable. They take his actions out of their historical context, and they contrive motives with no basis in fact. This must end.

In partnership with Lega Giovani, the New York Young Republican Club will continue the fight to restore and defend the reputation of Christopher Columbus. We will not abide by the denigration of Italian-American culture, and we will not permit the evisceration of Italian-Americans' symbols by the woke mob.

NYYRC Position on NY's Constitutional Amendments Ballot Proposal

New York City is not just choosing a new mayor in November. All New York voters will decide the fate of five proposed constitutional amendments on the General Election Ballot on November 2. New York is 1 of 24 states where only legislators can initiate a ballot proposal. Before getting on the ballot, proposals must be approved by both houses of the legislature, then voted on again in both chambers after the Assembly and Senate have gone through one election cycle. New York voters will have their final say on the ballot

measures in November and, if approved, they will go into effect on January 1, 2022. These proposed amendments are great in scope, dealing with elections, redistricting, the environment, and the courts. Of particular concern are three of the proposed amendments that seek to enshrine Democrats' political advantage in the state of New York.

1. Amending the Apportionment and Redistricting Process – **OPPOSE**

New Yorkers will decide whether to amend the apportionment and redistricting process in November. States must redraw the boundaries of legislative and congressional districts to reflect population changes every decade following the U.S. Census. In New York State, the proposed amendment would count incarcerated individuals in their last place of residence instead of where they are incarcerated, and it would require the state to count all residents in districts even if they are not U.S. citizens. The proposed amendment would also change the approval process of legislative district lines for New York's House of Representatives, State Senate, and State Assembly. In 2014, a state constitutional amendment created a 10-member, so-called Independent Redistricting Commission to redraw district lines which would require the approval of the Legislature after a series of public hearings alongside the approval from seven members of the commission, including appointees from each majority and minority legislative leader. The proposed amendment would still require the approval of at least 7 members of the Commission, but it would get rid of the requirement that they are supported by appointees of each legislative leader. In short, this proposed amendment would make it easier to bypass the minority party in drawing new district lines.

The New York Young Republican Club adamantly opposes what can only be called a redistricting power grab by New York state Democrats. Self-interested politicians should not decide the conditions under which they are elected. Furthermore, the 2020 proposed constitutional amendments would make it even more difficult for Republicans to retain much control. In the past, Republicans have increased their number of seats in the New York State Senate by appropriately counting New Yorkers from downstate imprisoned in GOP-dominated rural areas. While inmates of the New York Department of Corrections may declare their official residence in other counties or even other states, their physical presence within upstate prisons is, and should remain, the determining factor for government resources and redistricting. Other changes would undo two provisions of the original 2014 amendment that were designed to protect the interests of minority parties in both houses. Democrats now hold a supermajority in both the Senate and Assembly and will inevitably be able to control the outcome of redistricting under the new provisions.

2. Right to Clean Air and Water – **OPPOSE**

New Yorkers will be asked to consider amending the New York State Constitution's Bill of Rights to include a guarantee to "clean air and water" in November. The amendment explicitly calls for the "right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment." Including such an ambiguous amendment will undoubtedly create confusion and its implications will be subject to interpretation in the courts. New York has the country's highest annual per-household lawsuit costs, and if the Green Amendment is approved, it will only make matters worse by creating an explosion of litigation that would have little impact on the environment. Additionally, costs of environmental compliance are already unnecessarily high. Passing this proposal would broaden state and city regulators' responsibilities and operational framework, leading to even higher costs which ultimately would lead to a mass exodus of businesses from New York State. New York's regulatory system is already both inefficient and ineffective. In 2019, New York City Council passed Local Law 97, an ordinance designed to reduce the city's carbon emissions. This ordinance, however, has had little impact on the environment while imposing heavy costs on landlords and developers, thus driving up housing costs. Perhaps even more importantly, this vague grant of a "right" to environmental regulators, rather than common citizens, will certainly open a door to rampant abuse of power. New Yorkers can expect soon to see their individual sovereignty and privacy evaporate as politicians completely removed from their everyday lives micromanage citizens to "protect" their "healthful environment."

3. Same-Day Voter Registration: **OPPOSE**

As part of the Democrats' current crusade to promote supposed "voting rights", the overwhelmingly blue state legislature is seeking to amend the constitution of New York by removing a requirement for voters to be registered at least 10 days before an election. Without such a restriction, lawmakers would be free to implement a same-day registration process statewide, further complicating an already suspect election system. Far from achieving any semblance of improved access to the ballot box, a same-day registration option would only result in additional confusion and chaos for strained poll workers, redirecting Election Day resources away from existing registered voters, and increasing wait times for

everyone. While the New York Young Republican Club firmly believes that eligible citizens should exercise their right to participate in our representative government at every opportunity, we also believe in personal accountability and the consequences of actions. Informed and responsible residents of the state of New York have ample opportunity to register to vote in a number of different ways well ahead of the existing 10-day cut-off. This brief and bearable buffer not only protects the validity of voter registrations, but also helps polling places to prepare for potential turnout, and prevents the possibility of literal last-minute “new” voters swaying results after early projections are publicized. Furthermore, the current deadline allows for the necessary time to verify addresses and voting districts, ensuring that only those citizens directly governed by elected officials are casting ballots in the appropriate races. The New York Young Republican Club urges all New Yorkers to vote NO on Proposal 3 to preserve the integrity of elections within the Empire State.

4. No-Excuse Absentee Voting – **OPPOSE**

New York state’s Constitution currently allows voters requesting an absentee ballot to provide an excuse for their inability to vote at their designated polling place. First and foremost, proponents of no-excuse absentee voting claim that the measure would increase voter turnout, which has proven not to be the case in a meaningful way. More importantly, voter fraud rarely occurs at the polls, instead of occurring through absentee ballots. The vast majority of voter fraud prosecutions involve absentee ballots that were illegally cast. For this reason, most other developed nations restrict or totally prohibit in-country postal voting, meaning that New York’s permissions already constitute an anomaly. Under a no-excuse system, there is no way to guarantee the applicant is voting at the ballot. Eliminating the last safeguard for absentee voting, namely providing an excuse, is bound to exacerbate the issue of voting fraud. In early July, the New York City Board of Elections acknowledged a discrepancy in the calculation of

ranked-choice votes, showing that over 100,000 test votes were added to the count. New Yorkers have long endured the incompetence of the city’s Board of Elections. We can only imagine how many more election-related issues will arise if New York decides to implement no-excuse absentee voting when the current system for processing absentee ballots can barely handle the increase in volume under a no-excuse system. The no-excuse absentee voting option would strain the outdated, inefficient, and manual process for mailing, accounting for, and counting absentee ballots. In 2020, New York waived absentee voting requirements because of the pandemic resulting in local boards of elections having to deal with record numbers of paper absentee ballots which led to extraordinary delays in deciding election outcomes. Delaying election outcomes will add to public suspicions about the validity of elections.

5. Expanding the New York City Civil Court Jurisdiction – **SUPPORT**

This proposal would impact the bloated dockets of the New York Supreme Court by expanding the jurisdiction of New York City’s civil court. The New York Young Republican Club does not oppose this amendment, as this is not the first time New York City’s civil court has been expanded. However, we are extremely disappointed with New York’s imposition of draconian coronavirus restrictions during much of the pandemic. These restrictions have led to a backlog of cases in New York courts and many state district attorneys say they do not expect to be caught up with cases for years. Coronavirus restrictions have slowed civil lawsuit settlements and President Biden’s eviction moratorium has led a large number of landlords to find a way around the housing court backlog by pursuing non-paying tenants in civil court. We hope that expanding New York City’s civil court’s jurisdiction will reduce the existing court backlogs and that the court system will resolve these pressing cases in a timely manner.

Condemnation of House GOP Traitors

The New York Young Republican Club condemns in the most unreserved terms the radical action by nine self-proclaimed Republicans in the House of Representatives to join in the Democrats’ politically motivated screed against

Stephen K. Bannon, whom they have accused of acting in contempt of Congress.

These self-aggrandizing figures include notable losers like:

- Liz Cheney, who is roundly despised by practically everyone in Wyoming,
- Adam Kinzinger, whose most notable contribution to the American political landscape prior to jumping on the America Last bandwagon was ranked fifth on The Hill's 2011 "50 Most Beautiful People" list,
- Nancy Mace, an outright fraud who backstabbed President Donald J. Trump, and
- New York's very own John Katko. Katko is a typical RINO who will make pandering statements on critical issues like border security while selling Americans out.

The remaining five (Brian Fitzpatrick, Anthony Gonzalez, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Peter Meijer, and Fred Upton) are unremarkable and ineffectual members of Congress riding the coattails of anti-Trump fervor to get more favorable media hits than they could earn on their own merits.

Mr. Bannon, the 2019 recipient of the New York Young Republican Club's Frederic René Coudert Jr. Award, has a well-known and deep passion for the American people. He connects with members of the America First movement at a personal level, and they know that they can trust

him for honest and forthright assessments of political affairs. That is what makes him dangerous to creeps in Congress who hate the very principle of America First because it damages their personal globalist interests.

These nine Republicans who voted to sic the Justice Department, led by a corrupt whacko, on Mr. Bannon deserve to be challenged in primary elections, and the New York Young Republican Club will support America First candidates who oppose them in 2022. We look forward to meeting with Katko's constituents, in particular, and we vow to make sure that they understand what a snake they have representing them.

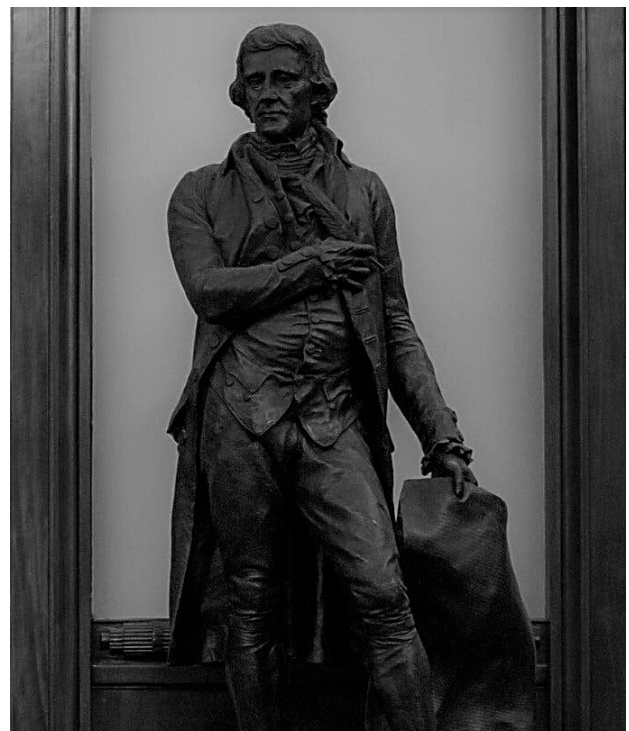
Crypto-Marxists have no place in the Republican Party, and we will continue and expand our forceful advocacy to eradicate their toxic influence. These nine are a good start.

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy once said that "[o]ur job as Americans and as Republicans is to dislodge the traitors from every place where they've been sent to do their traitorous work." The New York Young Republican Club intends to carry this torch forward; we will drive RINOs to extinction.

Opposition To The Removal Of The Thomas Jefferson Statue

Several New York City Council members have long complained that the Thomas Jefferson statue emblazoned in their City Hall served as a reminder of the injustices perpetrated against communities of color throughout our nation's history. As a result, Mayor Bill de Blasio, a champion of the far left and their authoritarian cancel culture tendencies, has sought the removal of the statue of Thomas Jefferson from the New York City Hall. On October 18, officials on the Public Design Commission obliged by unanimously voting for the statue's removal. The Statue of Thomas Jefferson which has stood in the New York City Hall for more than 100 years is now bound to be removed by this year's end.

One of our nation's gravest sins was slavery. Thomas Jefferson, an imperfect man just like the rest of us, owned more than 600 human beings. He profited from the institution of slavery while understanding its inhumane and unconscionable nature. At the same time, few people in history



have done more than Thomas Jefferson to advance the cause of freedom. As the primary writer of the Declaration of Independence, it was Jefferson who wrote "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It stands to reason that if Jefferson's likeness is banned, his words will be next. Removing a statue does not change history, but it is clear that the leftist mobs who pull down statues have no regard for historical context, or an understanding of the different facets of humanity. They base their indignation solely on feelings of offense while seeking to sweep significant chapters of our history under the rug. The freedom to speak freely is the essence of our democracy and the removal of Thomas Jefferson's statue is just one of many examples of the far left's distrust of the American people being capable of handling complicated issues.

The New York Young Republican Club passionately believes that a working democracy demands enlightened citizens and citizens cannot be enlightened if our history is erased and the freedom of speech is stripped away. We express the utmost disappointment toward the New York City Council's openness to cancel our history through its decision to remove the Thomas Jefferson statue from its halls. Early in its history, a predecessor organization to the

New York Young Republican Club was the first to inscribe Abraham Lincoln's name on its banner and to establish the first company of "Wide-Awakes," a group organized in support of Lincoln's 1860 campaign, in New York State. Speaking before an audience of about 1,500 at Cooper Union in 1860 at a speech that this group organized, Lincoln rightfully argued that the founding fathers, whom the left are desperately trying to cancel today, created a foundation that set the country on an anti-slavery course. This morally righteous course eventually allowed people of all colors and creeds to enjoy equal treatment under the law in the United States far before many other countries dignified their citizens with the same basic rights.

One of the most crucial questions of our day is where will this cancel culture hysteria stop? Today it's Jefferson, but who will it be tomorrow? Cancel culture annihilates reason by bypassing the processes by which social reasoning takes place. Our nation has come a very long way since the terrible evils of slavery through reason and humanity. Every day it increasingly seems that this battle between upholders of civilizational values and the perpetrators of cancel culture will not end well. In the end, it will be up to those who care for liberty and American civilization to exercise our fundamental values and virtues in order to ensure that our progress will endure the test of time.

"Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add 'within the limits of the law' because law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual." – Thomas Jefferson

Opinions

NYC's Gifted and Talented Program – UNCANCELLED!

By Aldo J. Solares



While most elementary students enjoy their hot and muggy NYC summers playing in the park or swimming at the beach, a few students stay at home or the local library taking practice tests in preparation for the Gifted and Talented entrance exam.

The Gifted and Talented (G&T) program identifies and supports exceptional students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Students entering kindergarten through third grade need to take a test that assesses their verbal and non-verbal skills. For students entering the 4th or 5th grade, their New York State test scores determine acceptance. Given the program is designed to challenge students to learn at an accelerated pace commensurate with their cognitive potential, teachers require additional training. If the student is accepted, the program prepares them for the opportunity to attend specialized middle and high schools.

My son is in his fourth year of G&T, and we are grateful for the opportunity he has. Together, the teachers, the principal of the school, and fellow G&T parents provide a support system for our children to thrive in an accelerated learning environment. But, as a parent, it is a struggle. When I come home from work, my son's homework, prep and studying are the top priorities, including on weekends. Unfortunately, during the COVID lockdowns, learning became virtual, and the G&T standard of education

dropped significantly. We saw protests escalating into riots during the shutdown, businesses were getting looted, and street skirmishes with the police; we realized the only thing keeping us in NYC was the G&T program, which demonstrates how vital this program means for many families.

On October 8th, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the phase-out of the Gifted and Talented program for elementary school students. This announcement was surprising, given that de Blasio assumed office in 2014, and just three months before the end of his term, he decided to terminate the program. Instead, he wants to replace it with another program, which to date, is unproven.

So why does the mayor want to terminate the program? He points out that ~70% of G&T students are White or Asian, but make up just ~30% of the classroom. At the same time, Black and Hispanic children fill ~65% of the school, but just ~25% of the G&T seats. He concludes there isn't enough diversity, which is driving his decision to phase out G&T for elementary school students by 2022.

I think it's a disservice to all residents of NYC to categorize students whose parents may originate across 195 countries into four buckets of race. The thought process is too simplistic, and I believe it is the primary driver of why policies driven by race fail to deliver. If your worldview is predominantly race-driven, then the automated response by New York City's Progressive Democrats is to call out discrimination or outright racism. They believe, like de Blasio, the demographics in G&T, just like other special programs, should be representative of the community served. Therefore, the typical response is to eliminate merit-based programs and replace them with solutions deemed "more equitable." That new "solution" is called Brilliant NYC.

If Brilliant NYC raises the education standards for all students, then great. However, we should

test the new program for effectiveness before phasing out G&T. I'd like to see the results, because I don't know the details of the Brilliant NYC program. Will the program stress achieving academic excellence and critical thinking? Or will the program include indoctrinating our children with poisonous Leftist ideologies such as "the pillars of Western Civilization are evil?" Or will it have an anti-America agenda, while teaching Critical Race Theory? There are too many unknowns for de Blasio just to cancel the G&T program.

Instead of de Blasio canceling the G&T program, why not put a committee together to conduct market research. Using a simple questionnaire, the committee can discover what motivates parents to enroll their children in the program and what stops them. They can learn what works and what doesn't. They can ask questions such as, "How did you hear about the G&T program? What drove your decision to enroll or not enroll your child in the program? What actions did you take to prepare for the test? What tools did you use? How did you manage your time?" Then, if parents are short on resources, whether it's time or money, the administration can develop strategic solutions to address these programs. This research can create better education programs for our children.

As a parent of Hispanic descent, my wife and I talk to parents about school all the time. We talk about the G&T program, encouraging them to take the test and enroll their children. Based on our personal experience, I expect the research to show that many Black and Hispanic parents are unaware that the program exists. Although the program's details are available on the government website, a certain degree of ignorance prevents parents from informing themselves of it. Even if they are aware, they sometimes rationalize why their child may not qualify for the program. Conversely, when I talk to parents of Chinese, Taiwanese, Indian, or any other Asian descent, they are aware of G&T, and they usually learn about it through word of mouth from other parents. They also have the testing deadlines, and their children are preparing for the exam.

Therefore, the mayor and his administration need to promote the program better, describe the testing requirements, and share the deadlines with all parents. And suppose the mayor wants to improve the enrollment and

acceptance statistics for Black and Hispanic students, then they need to promote G&T more to these demographics.

While working on the demand side of the equation, the administration needs to improve the supply. They need to train more educators to teach and deliver G&T. The more teachers they can prepare for G&T, the more classes and seats can be made available to accommodate the increase in demand. Working both the demand and supply sides of this equation requires a commitment to expand the G&T program, not end it. The result is there will be an increased demand for specialized middle and high schools in NYC. For example, there are eight technical high schools in NYC that require students to take the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) to apply. Why not set a goal of doubling the amount in 10 years?

I acknowledge the process for a student to attend a top-tiered university is competitive. Students need to demonstrate, at a minimum, a history of consistently delivering academic excellence. Getting into these schools helps when the student attends a specialized high school. The G&T program is the vehicle that provides working or low-income families the opportunity to prepare and attend these schools, provided the student, with the help of the parent(s), is willing to put in the work.

My family and I are waiting for the following election results to determine whether we will stay in this great city or go. The parent's values are at the very foundation of a child's education and long-term success. This means, regardless of whether it's the G&T program or the Brilliant NYC program, if the family's values include their child achieving academic excellence, the parents will do whatever it takes to find the right vehicle to get them there.

In the end, enrollment and acceptance into the G&T program have less to do with a child's skin color or ethnic background and more to do with the parents taking ownership of their child's education and academic performance. They are fully committed to seeking and providing the best education opportunities they can afford. Rather than being passive and waiting on the school officials or the administrations to tell them about the program, parents need to do their research, talk to other parents, and take action!

Jackie Robinson's Home Run Trot of Character Around All Bases

By Michael C. DeBenedetto III, Esq.

Jackie Robinson has become immortalized in American history for being the first African American baseball player in Major League Baseball (MLB) and has subsequently had his #42 jersey number retired by all teams in MLB. He was an accomplished player on the Diamond, playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers having been selected for 6 All-Star games and having won a World Series with them in 1955. He is a member of the baseball Hall of Fame and was elected on the first ballot in 1962. While this aspect of his legacy is well known, seldom does the discourse on his accomplishments touch on other elements of his great legacy and contributions to our nation and local community. Sports are a great bridge builder, however when looking at the legacy of Jackie Robinson his influence and work extended beyond the Diamond.

Jackie Robinson would embrace being a trail-blazer at a young age. Prior to his notoriety in baseball, he attended UCLA where he became the first African-American athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football, and track. This was an early preview of his high character and commitment to excellence despite adversity. In 1942, he was drafted for service in WWII and eventually entered officer candidate school. He received a commission as a second lieutenant. At the time, there was not a high concentration of African-Americans in officer candidate school, thus it was quite an accomplishment for Jackie Robinson. In training and enlistment, he still faced racial prejudice, however, and was not afraid to be outspoken about it. For this he confronted local command and helped facilitate reform.

Jackie Robinson was also recognized as a humble humanitarian. In 1964, the New York Young Republican Club honored him with the War Memorial Award (now known as the Philip J. McCook Award) for his contributions to the community and exemplifying and promoting the spirit of liberty and individual responsibility in society. Other iconic names and past recipients of this prestigious award from the NYYRC included President Herbert Hoover, New York Governor and Vice-President candidate Thomas Dewey, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President Richard Nixon and Vice-President

Nelson Rockefeller.

Other examples of Jackie Robinson's work outside the Diamond included early activism with the NAACP and the Civil Rights movement, while developing relationships with influential leaders including President John F. Kennedy and President Richard Nixon to encourage them to embrace this platform. He was also a strong supporter of Vice-President and notable alumni Nelson Rockefeller during his run for President and had worked on his campaign. He also became successful in business, serving as Vice-President of Personnel at renowned coffee company, Chock Full o'Nuts.

In 1964, Robinson co-founded the Freedom National Bank—an African-American owned and operated bank in Harlem, New York—with businessman Dunbar McLaurin. Robinson was the commercial bank's first Chairman of the Board. He believed in providing opportunities for minority communities and encouraged economic development in those areas. He was a proponent of investing in the individual and recognizing the natural rights we all enjoy as citizens of the United States to advance and grow. He was willing to draw attention to the plight of urban communities that had families that were struggling to be economically viable. By helping establish the Freedom National Bank, these communities had a visible sign of investment in them and it spurred the growth of small businesses. The American Dream was presented in a robust way with Jackie Robinson's humanitarian efforts. These communities were able to embrace advancement and economic opportunity to support themselves and their families.

Jackie Robinson reflected on this activism and his belief in the advancement of the whole individual:

"I believe that a man is judged on more than the power of his hands and legs. He's judged also on the strength of his mind and his character. Not to speak out when I saw or felt an injustice would have been as bad as taking the 3rd strike, every time I came to bat."

He also embraced being that voice and coming to bat to pinch hit when necessary for those in need. In 1970, he formed the Jackie Robinson Construction Company to build low and moderate income housing for those in need of support. This was just another example of Jackie Robinson's dedication to the community. We are grateful for his legacy not only on the Diamond, but off it.

On a personal level, he was married to his wife, Rachel Robinson and had three children, Jack Jr., Sharon and David. He was known to be devoted to his family. His son Jack Jr. sadly succumbed to an untimely death at the age of 24 due to a car accident. His other children, however, continued to carry out his legacy. His daughter, Sharon, is now Vice-Chairman of the Jackie Robinson Foundation and is also a prolific author, having written on his legacy and also authoring children's books with educational messages. His second son, David Robinson moved to Tanzania and resides there with his wife and family and carries out humanitarian work to help with economic advancement. He also operates a successful international coffee company. The education and economic advancement principles

that inspired Jackie Robinson to make a difference continues to live on through his children.

It was an honor for us to award Jackie Robinson the War Memorial Award in 1964 for his humanitarian work. The New York Young Republican Club proudly continues to reflect on his legacy and encourages fostering the belief in the individual and the American Dream just as Jackie did. May his example continue to live through us today in our outreach to all communities.



Endorsement: Brian Fox For City Council (CD-43)



The New York Young Republican Club is proud to endorse Brian Fox for New York City Council District 43. Fox is a local business owner from Bay Ridge and founder/managing partner of Phillip Martin Talent Advisors and he has recently entered politics to represent his family, friends, and neighbors. In his own words,

“I was just tired of saying ‘someone should do something about it and therefore I decided to jump into the ring and take a stand against this insanity. I want to be a voice for all my neighbors who have been harmed by this current administration’s reckless agenda... I may just be an ‘average citizen,’ but I believe the ‘little guy’ deserves to be heard at City Hall, too!”

After encouragement from friends, family, and other community leaders, Brian Fox decided to go all in. “I am proud to say, I am not a politician, and never had any intention of being involved...I’m just a local neighbor who is fed up with politics,” states Fox. If elected to New York’s City Council, Brian Fox would focus on returning accountability and responsibility to the Council. He supports:

- Fully funding & supporting the NYPD
- Increasing quality of life
- Taking care of our seniors

- Supporting local business interests

“I live and work in South Brooklyn and this last year, our community has had to deal with a destructive and deadly pandemic. The response was handled horribly by our local representatives: seniors were sent to die in unprotected senior living facilities, businesses have lost everything, and crime has skyrocketed. We must support the NYPD. Our local cops keep all of us safe and they put themselves out on the line to prevent us from harm. I’d like to have more cops on the beat, especially on all major streets and avenues, and I want to refund the police in response to the current councilman’s dangerous defunding efforts. There has been a tremendous uptick in theft, vandalism, graffiti, and general crime, all under the watch of our current leadership, and I want to be a voice for many of my neighbors who have been harmed by this current administration’s reckless agenda,” states Fox.

Regarding plans for the district, Brian Fox elaborates, “I plan to work with the Third Ave. Merchants Association and other organizations to help create local events, giveaways, fundraisers, and more in order for small businesses to communicate and advertise in a more streamlined manner and help them effectively reach local consumers and customers.” “I will be working with individual owners to create e-commerce platforms for them to sell items and goods online as well.”

Brian Fox has already been endorsed by the Brooklyn GOP, the Brooklyn Conservative Party, and the Verrazzano Republican Club. The NYYRC is proud to join our neighboring Republican and Conservative Clubs in endorsing Brian’s candidacy for New York’s City Council District 43.

The New York Young Republican Club strongly urges all New Yorkers living in Brooklyn in the neighborhoods of: Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst, and Bath Beach to vote for Brian Fox for New York City Council District 43.

Endorsement: Dr. Devi Nampiarampil For NYC Public Advocate



The New York Young Republican Club is proud to endorse Dr. Devi Nampiarampil, MD, MS, aka Dr. Devi, for New York City Public Advocate.

Dr. Devi achieved her:

- Bachelors of Neurobiology & Economics from Northwestern University
- MD from Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine
- Internship, Residency, and Fellowship at Harvard Medical School
- Masters from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
- Faculty at New York University's Grossman School of Medicine

Dr. Devi has worked in the field of medicine for 20 years and treated thousands of patients in New York and beyond in a wide variety of capacities pertaining to patient treatments in a hospital setting, in an out-patient setting, and in administration administering medical health to veterans in the tri-state area. In addition, Dr. Devi has conducted research and has been published in various medical journals.

Dr. Devi is a regular contributor on television

for the last 10 years, as a contributing editor and subject matter expert discussing a wide variety of medical topics helping to keep the public properly informed on the latest news in the world of medicine and health. In her own words, regarding her candidacy for Public Advocate, she aims to, "move the hearts and minds of people so we can overcome this crisis together..."

As Public Advocate Dr. Devi will advocate for:

- Transparency, Fairness, & Predictability
- An end to mandatory vaccinations and an end to vaccine passports
- Stricter penalties for scam-artists and frauds
- Job creation
- Strategies to dramatically decrease violent crime
- Effective government operations
- A resolution to the opioid epidemic
- A relaxation of NYC's onerous fines, penalties, and bureaucracy as it pertains to small business, traffic, and public parking

Like many medical professionals, Dr. Devi stepped forward in the early days of the pandemic to volunteer her private practice and expertise to protect New York's residents. The city was initially receptive, but Dr. Devi soon realized that the city's bureaucracy and ineptness have encumbered the city to such an extent as to make it impossible for the city to respond effectively. In her own words:

"I have been a doctor for almost 20 years... My entire life changed when the lockdown came in March 2020. I lost everything that mattered to me— at least temporarily. My first child's daycare was forced to close, and I had to decide whether to stay home with my toddler or to keep my practice open and help my patients. Also, I was pregnant with a second child...If I didn't treat my patients, they would have had to go to the ER, which at that time was a death sentence. Many of my patients struggle with Cancer, HIV, and other serious medical conditions. I sent my

child, who I love, upstate to live with my parents..."

"We could not obtain PPE from our suppliers, and I spent my life savings to fund my private practice to provide care for my patients..."

"When my toddler returned back to us 8 months later, I was 8 months' pregnant and getting ready for a scheduled c-section. I had preeclampsia with my first delivery and for the second pregnancy. I skipped the last few weeks of OB visits because we got infected with COVID and had to go into isolation.

Then one day, I called 911 because my husband was hallucinating from low oxygen. He was hospitalized and put on high flow nasal oxygen. I thought he would die. Soon after, I felt short of breath and experienced contractions. In that moment, I thought both my unborn baby and I would die. I was worried for my toddler. I couldn't give her to anyone else because she was also infected with COVID. Again, when I asked the City Administration for help, in the form of a home health aide with PPE, or a nanny with PPE, I was told that if I could not maintain a "safe" environment for my child, that the City would take her from me. It made me question the whole purpose of the government. Is the Government here to help? or to make things

more difficult? I realized that I would have to figure out a solution on my own. Ultimately, I roamed the perimeter of a massive hospital complex in active labor, short of breath from COVID, in the freezing cold of winter, and by myself. Miraculously, my baby was born with COVID antibodies and immunity to the deadly virus. We were immediately transferred to an isolation room that we shared, and from inside that room, I resumed telemedicine visits for my patients who still needed healthcare within hours after my C-section. I know that I am not alone with these experiences and I realize that we need a real serious change in leadership in New York City. Therefore I have decided to run for NYC Public Advocate."

There is a special opportunity in this election cycle to elect a whole new crop of qualified leaders who will return safety and security to New York City. We strongly support Dr. Devi's candidacy and know that she will lead in advocating for practical solutions to the serious problems New Yorkers face every day. We look forward to Dr. Devi's leadership and advocacy for New York City's Residents.

The New York Young Republican Club strongly urges all New York City Voters to support Dr. Devi Nampiaparampil for New York City Public Advocate.

Endorsement: Ray Tierney For Suffolk County District Attorney



The New York Young Republican Club is proud to endorse Ray Tierney for District Attorney in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. If elected to serve as District Attorney in Suffolk County, Tierney will focus on the following:

- Combating street gangs
- Fighting back against disastrous bail and criminal justice reform laws
- Repealing parole reform
- Handling drug trafficking and overdoses
- Identity Theft and Cyber Crimes
- Preventing ransomware attacks
- Bringing integrity to the DA's Office
- Removing politics from Law and Order

Raymond A. Tierney graduated from Brown University in 1988, and St. John's University Law School in 1992. He worked for 14 years as an Assistant District Attorney in Suffolk County. During his career in Suffolk, he investigated and prosecuted cases involving organized crime, street gangs, murders, and other violent street crimes. He also investigated political corruption, domestic violence, child abuse, and child pornography. These prosecutions included long-term investigations in which he supervised the efforts of designated teams of detectives utilizing wiretaps, search warrants, and grand jury investigations in order to uncover criminal activity and bring those responsible to justice.

While at the District Attorney's office, Tierney prosecuted Austen Offen and Constantine Chronis for the beating of Shane Daniels outside of a Hamptons nightclub in 1996. Offen beat the victim into a coma with the car security device known as the "Club," while Chronis, an active NYPD officer, held the crowd back with his service revolver.

In 2008, Tierney joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. While there, he oversaw complex criminal investigations and prosecuted violations of federal criminal law, including cases involving the Colombian Norte Valle Cartel responsible for importing over 50 tons of cocaine into the United States. Tierney was also responsible for prosecuting international white-collar cases, such as a case against a call center in India utilized to contact and swindle millions of dollars from United States citizens in so-called "IRS Payment" scams.

Much of Tierney's career has been devoted to the trial and conviction of numerous members of the MS-13 street gang for the commission of murders and other violent crimes on Long Island. He drafted and applied for search and

arrest warrants, presented evidence to federal grand juries, prepared and filed indictments, engaged in pretrial discovery, litigated pretrial matters by motion and pretrial hearings, and conducted jury trials and sentencing hearings, putting HUNDREDS of dangerous MS-13 members behind bars.

After the United States Attorney's Office, Tierney went to the Kings County District Attorney's Office to run their Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau, Crime Strategies Unit, and Body-Worn Camera Unit. While in Brooklyn, Tierney oversaw all aspects of long-term violent street gang investigations and prosecutions in the office and worked with the New York Police Department and federal partners on developing investigations to seize guns, prosecute gang murders, and allocate resources to dismantle the many criminal street gangs causing most of the violence in Brooklyn.

Tierney is running on both the Republican and Conservative lines in the November 2021 election. As a career prosecutor, he is not a member of any political party and is running to rid the District Attorney's Office of the rampant partisan politics it is historically known for. Tierney is particularly concerned with the politicization of criminal justice issues, such as the "Defund the Police" movement, disastrous bail reform laws, and overly burdensome discovery rules, all designed to make it harder to lock criminals away. Tierney and his wife are raising their four children in Suffolk County and want them to grow up in a safe and crime-free environment.

The New York Young Republican Club strongly urges all Long Island residents living in Suffolk County to vote in support of Ray Tierney for District Attorney in Suffolk County this November.

"He who dares not offend cannot be honest." – Thomas Paine

Endorsement: Inna Vernikov For City Council (CD-48)



The New York Young Republican Club is proud to endorse Inna Vernikov for New York City Council District 48. Vernikov is a small business owner and practicing attorney. Her family immigrated to the United States from the Ukraine, escaping socialism/communism and seeking the American Dream. Today, Vernikov is fighting to protect the American Dream and to keep New York City grounded. She is a practicing lawyer and is very active in the community, but the Pandemic and ensuing crisis and New York City's failure to respond effectively has prompted Vernikov to take action and run for public office.

In Vernikov's own words, "It's Time to Act. I will not stand idly by and watch NYC disintegrate. I will fight to restore NYC to greatness...I was born in a place where criticism of government policy would land you in jail. Like many immigrants, I have been living the American dream. I'm running because we need a voice to counter the radical leftist policies that are destroying our city. With your support we can make our great city cleaner, safer, and more affordable for every New Yorker."

Vernikov first got involved in politics and government by joining the campaign of former Senator David Storobin and was Special Assistant to former Assemblyman Dov Hikind.

She volunteered, helping to register voters on the street with the United Jewish Voters Alliance. Presently, she assists those in need throughout the 48th City Council District and through various charities and civic associations. Vernikov is a Board Member and Women's Committee Chair for Americans Against Antisemitism and a Chair at Legion Self Defense, an organization providing self-defense and active shooter training. Additionally, Vernikov has been nominated for, or received, the following awards:

- Jewish Week's "36 under 36" Award,
- Congressional acknowledgment for Business Development & Legal Excellence,
- New York State Senate Certificate of Merit,
- Attorney of the Year Award in Sheepshead Bay,
- New York City Council acknowledgment sponsored by Councilman Chaim M. Deutsch,
- Congressional Recognition for Outstanding & Invaluable Service to The Community.

Lastly, Vernikov was also recognized for her outstanding civic contributions and has been published in the *Algemeiner*, *The Forward*, and *InTouch*. If elected to serve in New York City Council, Inna Vernikov will focus on restoring the gifted and talented program, removing critical race theory from school curricula, protecting and defending small business, fully funding and supporting the NYPD, and generally defeating the Radical Left's socialist agenda. Inna Vernikov's unique experiences and leadership qualities allow for New Yorkers a special opportunity to elect a qualified and experienced leader, who will bring true leadership to New York City Council's District 48.

The New York Young Republican Club strongly urges all New York City residents living in the neighborhoods of southern Brooklyn, including Brighton Beach, Homecrest, Manhattan Beach, parts of Midwood, and Sheepshead Bay, and a small section of Coney Island, to vote in support of Inna Vernikov's candidacy.

Endorsement: James Pai For City Council (CD-20)



The New York Young Republican Club is proud to endorse James Pai for New York City Council District 20 (that encompasses Flushing, Queens). James is the son of Taiwanese immigrant parents who came to America in search of a better life and more opportunities.

James attended Albany University where he became an accountant. He launched his own accounting firm and has tirelessly worked for 15 years building it up and giving back to his community. James' work ethic speaks for itself. In his career, James partnered with over 800 local businesses providing free financial consultations and relief services in the face of the Covid-19.

His work goes beyond the business realm. Seeing the community devastated by the pandemic; James organized the distribution of masks, gloves, protective gear, and more to essential healthcare workers and immigrant families. His platform focuses on public safety, quality education, encouraging business development, and providing affordable housing. James is also married with 3 children and a dog named Mochi.

We look forward to seeing James becoming our next City Councilman and working with him to make our city a better place for all New Yorkers.

For more information, please visit his campaign website: www.paifornyc.com

Endorsement: Benjamin Geller For Dutchess County Legislature (LD-4)

The New York Young Republican Club is proud to endorse Benjamin Geller for Dutchess County Legislature District 4 in New York. Geller is a Dutchess County resident, small business owner, fireman/EMT, and educator. He attended Marist College studying Biomedicine and Healthcare Administration. Currently, he works in emergency response as an EMS instructor for an advanced life support agency in Dutchess County, and has started a bakery business.

Currently, Geller works for the Department of Emergency Response and is part of Dutchess County's Medical Reserve Corps in regards to the Pandemic. Additionally, as part of his work in emergency response, Geller has had an opportunity to meet and work with some of



the top political leaders in Dutchess County. Additionally, Ben works for Today is America as the Director of Strategy in hopes to restore family values back to our nation.

Geller was asked to run for office by the Dutchess County Executive & NY-19 Congressional Candidate Marc Molinaro, and he has received widespread support and the endorsements of a large number of leading political figures in Dutchess County including Senator Sue Serino.

Geller recently led a crew of medical professionals on a humanitarian trip to Kenya and Ghana to provide medical services and medical training to those in great need. Geller believes in hard work, unwavering commitment, and selfless service, and in his own words:

"I was asked to run by the leadership here in New York and given my public service and humanitarian work, I know what the needs are of the people I seek to represent," and "New Yorkers work hard...they are passionate, tough,

and deserve to have their taxes lowered, and have elected officials who have their best interests at heart, and have officials who have a positive vision of the future. The mental health crisis in America is running rampant, and I want to join in the fight to combat that as well."

If elected to serve in the Legislature of Dutchess County, Benjamin Geller will focus on small business, law enforcement, infrastructure, low property taxes, mental health, and education reform, as his primary areas of concern.

Geller's unique experiences as an emergency medical professional and now a community leader provides the citizens of Dutchess County with a special opportunity to elect a qualified and experienced individual who will bring leadership to Dutchess County's Legislature District 4. The New York Young Republican Club strongly urges all New York residents living in Dutchess County, in Hyde Park, Staatsburg, and Poughkeepsie to vote in support of Benjamin Geller's candidacy.

Event Spotlight: Oktoberfest Fundraiser with Lee Zeldin and Raheem Kassam

On October 16th, Amanda Gragg, our Philanthropy Chairwoman and veteran of the US Marines Corp, organized an Oktoberfest themed fundraiser, in which 30% of all proceeds were donated to the Purple Heart Honor Mission. This great organization supports veterans who have earned a Purple Heart for their military service. At the event, Congressman (NY-1), New York Gubernatorial Candidate and also a veteran, Lee Zeldin spoke to us about his race for Governor. He discussed his platform and the urgent need to make New York Republican Again, and how flipping seats in the NY State Senate and Assembly are just as important as winning the Governorship. Lastly, we also had an appearance and brief speech from Raheem Kassam, who is a British conservative political activist and editor-in-chief of several prominent Ring Wing news outlets.



Photo by Denice Flores Almendares

Club's Mission

To promote and maintain the principles of the Republican Party; to foster within the Republican Party and make practical in service of the municipality, state and nation, the idealism characteristic of youth; to correct in our own party that tendency of all parties to make organization an end rather than a means; to develop sound principle and public spirit in party politics; to promote honest and fair electoral methods, to the end that the expression of the popular will by whatever party or body, shall be as free, untrammelled and equal as possible; to resist and expose political corruption; to advocate merit rather than partisan service as entitling to public office; to watch legislation and to encourage public attention to and efficiently criticize the conduct of government.

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"Safety from external danger is the most powerful director of national conduct. Even the ardent love of liberty will, after a time, give way to its dictates." – Alexander Hamilton