

It has been, and continues to be, a great honor to represent our neighborhoods and the Downtown Independent Democrats as a District Leader. The position of District Leader is a strange one. While its formal power is very limited, a committed DL can use the platform it creates to advocate and organize for real change. At DID we are blessed to have five DLs who work hard to represent our values. I ask for your endorsement for another term on Wednesday, February 17th so I can continue that work.

Over the past 12 years, I have used the role of DL to organize tenants from FiDi to the LES, push for substantive reform of the NY Democratic Party in a drive conceived of and led by DID members, called out corruption in local and state government, and more. Although the title is “Leader,” I am proudest of the times when I followed the many local experts in our club on issues from SoHo re-zoning to combatting police violence to the Elizabeth Street Garden. Supporting your work is a big part of what a Leader should do. I’ve also worked alongside you on electoral campaigns (with varying, but increasing, success). Likewise, you have stood with me in these campaigns, and my gratitude remains immense.

The next two years will be crucial for our neighborhoods and our values. We’ll be nominating and electing a Mayor, Borough President, District Attorn – and crucially a local city council person – who will literally define the shape of our neighborhoods and our city. Rezoning and development plans targeting us are in the works and more will come. It is my firm belief that my experience and recognition have situated me well to bring our voice to the Democratic Party and beyond. If you honor me with your endorsement, I promise you I will give that effort all I can. Thank you.

Paul Newell
District Leader AD 65 Part C