

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
General Meeting
Thursday July 15, 2021

Welcome to our first hybrid meeting!

Asm. Rebecca Seawright

- Congrats to Alex Bores and Rebecca Weintraub on becoming our next DLs
- June Primaries:
 - o There was a LOT of confusion from the BOE – incompetence on display once again
 - o Lending support to Senator Krueger’s bill to professionalize the BOE, which can be done by statute
 - Other changes need to be done through a constitutional amendment
 - o Monday, July 19th @ 10:30am: Assembly is holding a public hearing with the election law committee to review the RCV process
- A lot of election laws have been under way, including no-excuse absentee ballot voting.
 - o Legislature passed the same-day voter registration for the second time, which means it can now go to a ballot referendum
- NY Blood Center
 - o There was a public hearing hosted by BP Brewer on Monday, where FFDC members testified against the upzoning
- Named as Chair of NYS Assembly Taskforce on Women’s Issues
- ERA: plan to hold a hearing before the start of session in January
- Secured \$1.5M in state municipal grants to give to parks, NFPs, and schools
- NYS was allocated \$5.6B in federal aid through the CARES Act and other stimulus funding bills
- Held her office’s 50th town hall this past Tuesday related to businesses
- Questions:
 - o Concern about public hearing on RCV: she supports Asm Walker and trusts her but says we can testify about anything we want, fair game
 - o Status on ERA: passed the Assembly twice, hasn’t passed the Senate, hopes to have a hearing
 - o Teens and vaping: legislation was introduced to ban the fruit-flavors to deter people under the age of 18 from vaping
 - o Eviction moratorium expiration: pushing to get more federal funds for the rent support program, and make our state-level program open-ended
 - o NY Health Act: pledge to push leadership for a vote

Steven Romalewski, Director of the CUNY Center for Urban Research speaking on redistricting

- Steve presented a PowerPoint to the membership about the upcoming redistricting. Some notes are below but you can find the [full presentation here](#).
- Census 2020: We didn’t do as well in 2020 as we did in 2010 with regard to response rate

- This will impact both funding allocations and redistricting
- On a state level, people were surprised that we INCREASED our population, because estimates made it seem like it would decrease
 - We still lost a Congressional seat, though that's better than losing the expected two seats
- Redistricting: we will not be getting any of the data that's needed to redistrict until next month...but we were supposed to get it months ago!
 - The commission will have to really scramble to get the data and draw the maps
- Questions:
 - Will this be ready in time for petitioning?
 - Hopefully, but probably not
 - How much will the distribution of Dems vs. Republicans on both the state and federal level impact the redistricting?
 - Decision making for NYS is with the commission and the legislature, Congress is not involved. It's possible courts could intervene.
 - It depends, the commission is structured so partisanship should not matter, and if the state legislature rejects the commission's plan, then partisan consideration would definitely play some role

Rep. Carolyn Maloney showed up!

- Shouts out Billy, Kim, and Tricia for running, states that things didn't turn out the way we wanted
- We have to be careful that our district does not become Republican again
- "We are on the road to recovery"
- Questions:
 - Any updates on the police reform bill negotiations? Passed the George Floyd Reform in Policing Act which did a number of things, but it only passed the House, not the Senate. CM Maloney will ask for more info and share it with us.
 - Cuomo pushed back on the idea that the MTA is coming back, saying we need ridership to increase

Resolution for Greater Transparency in PLP Contracts

- Contracts with HPD and buildings they are taking over under a certain program are not being published with minimal detail, if any.
- This reso calls for an amendment to local law that will require HPD to post the information
- Jerry ran this reso by Ben Wetzler who thinks it's a great idea
- Kim made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Jeremy
 - 1 opposition only
 - Motion carries

Judicial Convention

- August 5th
- Many people don't know how the process is carried

- Will have an hour long session on Monday the 26th to demystify the process
- Sign-up was in this week's newsletter

BOE Forum

- It's clear there will be some reforms to the BOE and Gabe is taking the initiative in putting together a forum to talk about what is possible and how we as NYers can get involved
- We don't have a date, time, or location yet!
- Hoping to be co-sponsored with the other dem clubs in the area

Conclusion:

- If this is your first in person meeting with FFDC, please stand!
 - o 8 new people! Whoop whoop!
- Rekindle a tradition: RELOCATE TO RYAN'S DAUGHTER!