**State Committeeman Report**

Daniel Marks Cohen

December 2022

Jay Jacobs tenure as NYS Democratic Committee chairman isn’t the only reason Democrats performed poorly in NYS this year, and he may not even be the main reason, but it is one of the issues that we, as NYS Democrats, can control, and I have urged him to resign. If he does not, I have signed a petition with over 1,000 other party leaders and elected officials calling on Governor Hochul to replace him as chairman. I am hoping that this petition, which has been reported in the mainstream press, will pressure Jacobs to resign or Hochul to take action.

Over the summer, it was widely believed that Jacobs was re-elected chair because the Governor didn’t want to have the potential distraction of replacing the leadership - “switching boats midstream” in the middle of an election year, but now that she has won Hochul is saying she wants Jacobs to stay on, and that is madness.

This year there was lack of a robust coordinated campaign, the strategy whereby campaign resources such as money, lit and volunteers are collected and then allocated across vulnerable areas or regions of the state. Hochul instead ran a bit of a “rose garden strategy” attempting to remain above the fray until late in the fall when Zeldin began to surge and her campaign kicked into gear, but anyone could have seen from miles away months ago that many legislative seats and all four house seats in Long Island were in play and that there were more vulnerable congressional seats in upstate NY, so there was a need for early and sustained coordinated messaging to get the Democratic vote out. But it goes back further than that, to the disastrous redistricting commission, which was a huge overreach and left us vulnerable to judicial intervention that changed several winnable districts into overwhelming Republican ones and was a gigantic misstep by the party. Either Jacobs allowed this to happen with his consent, or he was powerless and ignored. Either option is unacceptable and he should be replaced.

Instead, Jacobs spends time arguing that Progressives are the problem, when they have led to a recent resurgence in political involvement, most demonstrably with the defeat of the so-called Independent Democratic Conference (“IDC”) that caucused with the GOP minority in the state legislature and blocked impactful legislation for years from being passed. The IDC was not just tolerated, it was quietly encouraged by the state party, and Jacobs must accept some blame for that as well.

Jacobs has now repeatedly lost local, state and federal elections in Nassau County, where he is also chairman, if he cannot even keep his backyard in order, why should we expect anything more for the rest of the state?

It is long since been time for Jay Jacobs to go.