**State Committeeman Report**

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The NY State Democratic Committee (NYSDC) held its convention last month at the Times Square Sheraton in midtown Manhattan, on February 16th and 17th, to nominate candidates for statewide office. The outcome was not a surprise, as going into the convention there was overwhelming support for the incumbent Governor, Kathy Hochul, and no primary challengers - at the time - to the rest of the statewide slate of Brian Benjamin for Lt. Governor, Tom DeNapoli for State Comptroller and Tish James for Attorney General. The two announced challengers for Governor, Congressman Tom Suozzi and NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, both failed to get the necessary 25% of the weighted vote in the convention to receive automatic ballot placement, and will have to collect signatures statewide to get on the ballot for the Democratic primary in June.

The convention was an otherwise pretty long-winded affair, with just about every possible candidate and elected official getting their two minutes in the sun, including Mayor Adams, who despite many in the room from downstate who had some misgivings, spoke well and was in turn well-received. Hard to imagine any Mayor of NYC in the past 30 years being as positively accepted in the state party, perhaps because 20 of the last 30 have been Republicans, and then De Blasio had worn out his welcome almost as soon as he was elected. Adams may not have had everyone in the room in agreement with him, but there was widespread respect for him in the office of Mayor.

Also, interesting to note is that with Governor Hochul (a white woman), State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (a Black woman), and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (a Black man), New York has now come a LONG way from three (white) men in a room deciding state policy. It was remarkable, and the situation was very different relatively recently. Between that and the array of speakers from across the wide range of diversity in every way imaginable, the projection was of a party that represents New York in all its multicultural and multiethnic glory. It was a long day, for sure, but it was also a proud one.

As I noted in previous columns, I did not expect to see the 69th AD lines change very much, and they did not. In fact, they changed about 3 EDs, smoothing out some awkward lines on Morningside Drive, and trading a block or two on the southern border. Very little change.