**State Committee Report**

**Daniel Marks Cohen**

Just a reminder that there are three ballot proposals to be voted on by New York City residents on Election Day:

Vote YES on #1. Campaign Finance Board legislation - it lowers the barriers to entry for people running for office, making the best campaign finance program in the country even better.

Vote NO on #2. Civic Engagement Commission - I am all in favor of civic engagement, but I am unconvinced that we need a commission on civic engagement to get people civically engaged.

Vote NO on #3. Term limits for Community Boards – I believe this is a giveaway to real estate developers who could exploit potentially uninformed newcomers without historical knowledge.

I don’t know about you, but I am both furious and tired. This has been an exhausting election season, perhaps the most I have ever experienced. With bomb threats, shootings of innocent people in schools, supermarkets and houses of worship, it feels like a nation under siege. Conversations across the political aisle, when they are not shouting matches, border on the surreal, with constant reaction to conspiracy theories drafted by the fringiest of the right edge of humanity concocting outlandish answers to response to questions of their worldview.

We are still full steam ahead, this final weekend for another foray into Dutchess County to turn the Faso Congressional seat blue with the election of Antonio Delgado. The Upper West Side has sent dozen of volunteers to the district, as well as to campaign for Max Rose in Staten Island, and Mikie Sherrill in New Jersey. I remain optimistic that we will take back BOTH houses, both the House and the Senate – and thus slow down the White House’s reactionary agenda and incoherent actions.

Come the day AFTER Election Day, then what? We have – almost certainly – a vacancy with Tish James’ elevation to become NYS Attorney General, leaving her seat as NYC Public Advocate open early next year. A special election follows in mid-February, which will likely attract multiple candidates and with no minimum threshold, allow someone to get elected to be a heartbeat away from the mayoralty with as little as 15-20% of the vote.

But aside from that, 2019 is an “off-year” for us. No regular city elections, no state or federal races, really just District Leaders. State legislatures in New Jersey and Virginia are up next year, and while not as sexy as turning Congressional seats blue, they are important parts of the puzzle if we want to control redistricting in those states in 2020. NJ is Democratic, but in Virginia the Republicans have a thin 2-seat majority in each house.

Certainly we will be immersed in the Presidential circus for the Democratic nominee, but locally the game is quiet. We should discuss, as a group, where we should be channeling our energy and resources in 2019. We have built and attracted an unprecedented level of voter interest and activity, to which end will it be deployed in the year to come?