**State Committeeman Report**

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A month since the convention of the NYS Democratic Committee and the state-wide campaigns are a decidedly sedate affair. Incumbent Governor Kathy Hochul appears to have largely consolidated Democratic support, with Congressman Tom Suozzi and NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams on the right and left, but neither one really catching fire. Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin has two opponents as well, but neither of them is penetrating much into the voters’ awareness either, we are less than 90 days to the Primary, but you would not know it. Attorney General Tish James and NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli do not have primary opponents, and neither may even have general election opponents, at this rate. Not that we need things need to be exciting, we just came off a pretty intense two-year period, so maybe a slower election year would be a good thing.

There is a storm around the fringes, as a federal judge just overturned ALL the redistricting for Congress and the State Legislature, on the grounds that it was gerrymandering to support Democrats. Which it was but this is after years of shenanigans favoring Republicans, but now the lines are up in the air, will there be a reversion to the old lines, or will the new lines hold until the case is appealed? Unclear as of this writing, but the old lines might make for a few more complicated races, particularly in the East Side seat held by Carolyn Maloney. Her district was redrawn to pick up a slice of the West Side, cutting out a portion of her eastern border in Queens that was not favorable to her. If the district reverts to the old lines, it could put her seat a bit more in play. But the biggest fish is the Staten Island/Brooklyn seat held by Republican Representative Nicole Malliotakis, who had beaten one-term Democratic congressman Max Rose for the seat in 2020, and which had become MUCH more Democratic under new lines and is a tossup to being recaptured by the Democrats this year. If it returns to the old lines, with a more Republican voter leaning tendency, it will be much harder to pick up. With the House split almost evenly between the two parties, every seat counts, and we could be within a seat or two from victory or defeat this November, depending on how New York’s lines get drawn and litigated.

Turning to local affairs, I am involved with a group of friends and neighbors trying to reactivate the old landmarked Metro Theater on 99th and Broadway. For more than a decade it has remained vacant and crumbling. The owner is a bombastic self-promoter who has announced several new tenants (a gym, a movie theater, an arts-related space) over the past dozen years to then see the potential occupants vanish for one reason or another. Recently the owner has said that he has yet another new business that is ready to lease the space, and while it is a familiar tune that we have heard before, there is enough corroborating information from other parties to give it some credence. We are hoping that this time it is real. We will have to wait and see, but if you want to know more, check out the website [www.FriendsofMetroTheater.org](http://www.FriendsofMetroTheater.org) to learn more about this neglected but fabulous landmark and our hope for its future.