**State Committee Report**

**Daniel Marks Cohen**

The NYS Democratic Committee called for its quadrennial convention to endorse statewide candidates for reelection at Hofstra University on May 22-24. At the moment, both State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and State Comptroller Tom Dinapoli are both running unopposed, so the likelihood is a unanimous decision to place both on the ballot for September. The drama is with the top of the ticket, Cuomo/Hochul. Cynthia Nixon’s entry into the gubernatorial race, along with City Councilman Jumaane Williams in the campaign for Lt. Governor, makes things interesting. Many of you may recall when Zephyr Teachout ran in 2014 she and her Lt. Governor colleague Tim Wu each got slightly more than a third of the primary vote in their category (in primaries the candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor run separately for their offices, once the primary is concluded the primary winners run as a ticket in the general election) – but it was quite low turnout overall, just 600,000 votes total for the entire state. Just 100,000 votes could swing the primary to Nixon, this in a state with 5.6 million registered Democrats. So about 10% actually voted in the primary, and a swing of less than 2% of the entire Democratic vote could put Nixon on the road to the Governor’s mansion. Teachout/Wu had no money and no “name ID” (no one had ever heard of either of them outside of political insiders). Nixon does not have either of those problems, she has money and fame from her acting career. Getting on the ballot requires 25% of the weighted vote in the State Convention. That is the weighted vote, not the total vote – the weight is measured by the turnout in the last gubernatorial election, and it just so happens that the 69th AD has the highest voter turnout in the State (and arguably the country, since there are more people, and more Democrats, in the City than anywhere else in the United States). Based on turnout from 2014, the weighted vote for the 69th AD is about 1% of the total, so of the 500 voting members of the State Committee, the 69th along with 24 other ADs of similar weight (the next highest being our neighboring State Committee members in the 67th AD), or about only 10% of the entire State Committee, could put Nixon and Williams on the ballot. When the State Committee gathers next month we will be guided in part by how the three clubs in the 69th vote in their endorsements for Governor and Lt. Governor. In 2014 Three Parks decided to vote “no endorsement” in the Governor’s race – we in the State Committee will be paying attention to your vote this time around. I should also add that both Lynn Thomas and I are up for re-election this year, and we would both appreciate your support to serve another term.