
DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Two of our veteran elected officials are retiring: State Senator Brian Kavanaugh and Assembly Member Deborah Glick. The race to fill these seats has produced a bevy of candidates.

For **State Senate**, two are competing: Grace Lee and Yuh-Line Niou.

Yuh-Line Niou was in the State Assembly from 2016 to 2022, when she inexplicably resigned to run for Congress. She lost. Now she is back, this time asking voters to elect her to the State Senate. Frankly, Ms. Niou's impulsive approach to her job raises questions and doubts regarding her commitment and effectiveness.

On the other hand, Assemblymember Grace Lee has received Kavanaugh's nod to succeed him, along with multiple endorsements from state and local elected officials who have worked with her, recognizing her talent and skills.



Ms. Lee's community activism began when she helped organize her neighbors to remedy dangerous industrial contamination, including mercury, a neurotoxin, buried under a parking lot that abutted two schools.

Recognized by City & State magazine as "a rising star in the Democratic Party," Lee led the fight in the Assembly to secure \$400 million from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to stabilize NYCHA housing. She also sponsored and passed the Hate Crimes Modernization Act, updating state hate crime laws. Grace led the effort to pass legislation making New York the first state in the country to recognize the Lunar New Year as a statewide school holiday.

We endorse Grace Lee for State Senate.

66th Assembly District

Greenwich Village, TriBeCa, SoHo, NoHo, and parts of the East Village

Current Assemblymember Deborah Glick is retiring. Six candidates are seeking her seat.

Ryder Kessler, a honcho in a pro-developer lobbying group, ran against Glick in 2022. Although spending \$100,000 of his own money, Glick trounced Kessler 70%-30%, reflecting what local voters think of his policies.

He supported the SoHo/NoHo/Chinatown upzoning, a boondoggle for developers, and also the destruction of the beloved Elizabeth Street Garden, a non-profit oasis and green space for the local community.

78% of Kessler's campaign funds have come from people living OUTSIDE the district, many from out of state. Why? What do they want from him in return?

Ben Yee is a Democratic State Committee member who has long advocated lowering barriers to civic participation and closing the education gap.

David Siffert is a civil rights attorney and NYU law professor who has used his legal talents to take on government malfeasance.

Furhan Ahmad is a retired firefighter with negligible political or community credentials. Likewise, Corrine Arnold is a small business owner also lacking community or political involvement.

Jeannine Kiely is endorsed by Deborah Glick to succeed her, a testimony to Kiely's abilities. She is also endorsed by Congressman Jerry Nadler, Councilmembers Christopher Marte and Harvey Epstein, Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal, and former Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. A UCLA grad with an MBA in finance from Columbia, Jeannine is the quintessential community activist.



Kiely was a founder of Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden and a founding member of Green Below 14, an effort to improve local parks and playgrounds. She successfully fought for new sports fields at Pier 40 and Gansevoort Peninsula on behalf of Champions, a youth sports affiliation representing over 12,500 downtown children.

Ms. Kiely co-founded the Literacy Academy Collective, which opened the nation's first two district public schools for students with dyslexia in the South Bronx and Central Brooklyn. She has also co-chaired the PS/IS 276 PTA.

A long-time community board member, Jeannine chaired Community Board 2 for two years and has served as Democratic District Leader since 2018.

The clear choice is Jeannine Kiely for the 66th Assembly District.

65th Assembly District

Lower East Side, Chinatown, South Street Seaport, and parts of the Financial District

Six candidates are contesting this seat.

Illapa Sairitupac is a housing advocate at the Cooper Square Committee and ran for this position in 2022.

Jasmin Sanchez worked in the non-profit sector and is currently a graduate student at CUNY. She organized around the future of the East River Park. During the pandemic, she coordinated a successful food distribution network.

Lilah Mejia is an outreach manager at a community center for persons with mental health issues. She is also active in addressing food insecurity and housing stability issues.

Jacky Wong is a local Democratic District Leader and works as a director of a non-profit senior housing organization.

Wei-Li Tjong is a corporate attorney, managing law-firm partner, and Democratic State Committee member.

Mariama James is a local Democratic District Leader and vice chair of the Manhattan Democratic Party. She is a lifelong resident of Southbridge, where she raised her family. With a background in accounting and finance, Ms. James has served as treasurer of Community Board 1.



Ms. James has been a leading advocate for 9/11 survivors and responders, working for the passage and expansion of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act. This legislation secured billions of dollars in healthcare and compensation for over 140,000 New Yorkers.

As cofounder of the Coalition for 100% Affordable 5 WTC, Mariama helped secure commitment for more than 400 affordable units on public land, including a 20% preference for 9/11 survivors and first responders. Ms. James is also a board member of the Sophie Gerson Healthy Youth program.

Downtown Independent Democrats endorses Mariama James in the 65th Assembly District.

61st Assembly District

Battery Park City, parts of the Financial District, the North Shore of Staten Island, and parts of Brooklyn

Charles Fall, current assembly member and Assistant Majority Leader, is running unopposed in the primary and will not appear on the ballot until the November general election. Fall's priorities revolve around comprehensive strategies to ensure stable and healthier communities.

Downtown Independent Democrats endorses Charles Fall for Assembly in the 61st A. D.

10th Congressional District

Dan Goldman, our current congressman, is facing a challenge from former City Comptroller Brad Lander, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor last year.

Prior to comptroller, Lander represented his Brooklyn district in the City Council, where he co-founded the Progressive Caucus and focused on workers' rights and housing initiatives.

However, his record as comptroller is mixed. Critics claim he invested pension funds based too much on policy principles rather than financial considerations. Indeed, the returns on his investments underperformed their benchmarks.

On local issues, Lander voted in the city council for the SoHo/NoHo/Chinatown upzoning, putting him at odds with local community activists.

Congressman Goldman was the lead counsel in the first impeachment trial of Donald Trump. He has made "protecting democracy" a centerpiece of his tenure. Goldman introduced legislation to create an oversight body for the Supreme Court and a bill to prevent the misuse of the justice system for political targeting.

He introduced a proposal for a new tax on the wealthiest Americans. The congressman is part of a lawsuit to ensure that he and other members of Congress are not blocked from inspecting ICE facilities. He also set up an immigration triage clinic in his office on Broadway across from 26 Federal Plaza, and has succeeded in obtaining the release of 39 people from detention.

Congressman Goldman sits on the very influential House Judiciary Committee and, if the Democrats take the House in November, he would likely lead its Oversight Committee as chair.



DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

VITTORIA FARIELLO
DENNIS GAULT
DISTRICT LEADERS
61ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
PAUL NEWELL
MARIAMA JAMES
DISTRICT LEADERS
65TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
JEANNINE KIELY
RICHARD CORMAN
DISTRICT LEADERS
66TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MEGG PASCARELLA
PRESIDENT
PALAK KAUSHAL
MORTON MINSLEY
VICE PRESIDENTS
JASPER PRICE
SECRETARY
SUSAN BURKE
TREASURER

GRACE LEE
NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER
CHRISTOPHER MARTE
NYC COUNCIL MEMBER
VICTORIA LEE
BEN YEE
JILL GOODKIND
AKM MIKE BHUIYAN
NYS DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Congress
Dan Goldman

State Comptroller
Tom DiNapoli

State Senate
Grace Lee

65th Assembly
Mariama James

66th Assembly
Jeannine Kiely

Democratic State Committee 65th A.D.
Fannie Ip and Morton Minsley

Delegates to the Judicial Convention
(TriBeCa, SoHo, NoHo, Greenwich Village only)

Vote ALL Delegates in each Group:
Erik Bottcher to Kathy Slawinski
Richard Braun to Megan Pascarella

Judicial Delegates - 66th Assembly District

The State Supreme Court has a unique system whereby justices are not directly elected by voters. Instead, they are chosen by delegates who themselves are elected by the voters. You want delegates who reflect your values.

There are two slates of competing delegates. We have joined with the Village Independent Democrats to field a line of conscientious delegates to reflect our community's standards.

There are 15 Delegates and 14 Alternate Delegates.
Be sure to vote for all of them.

At the top of the Delegates column, start with Erik Bottcher, then vote down the line to the last delegate, Kathy Slawinski.

For the Alternate Delegates, likewise vote down the ticket for all 14 alternates: starting with Richard Braun down to Megan Pascarella.

What is DID?

The Downtown Independent Democrats reform club formed in the loft district during the McGovern presidential campaign in 1972 and won district leadership for the first time in 1976, defeating the entrenched Tammany machine that controlled the politics here at the time.

Today we serve TriBeCa, SoHo, NoHo, West SoHo, parts of Greenwich Village, the East Village, the Lower East Side, Little Italy and Nolita, as well as Battery Park City, the Financial District, South Street Seaport, and Governors and Liberty Islands.

Endorsements of candidates are made at open public meetings, often after lively debate and discussion of the issues with the candidates themselves.

To join or for more information, visit didnyc.org

You can bring this fact sheet into the voting booth and we encourage it to avoid any confusion. Don't forget to flip your ballot over to vote for all candidates.

If you have any questions or problems, call us at 646-309-9435 or contact the Board of Elections at 212-Vote-NYC or vote.nyc
Scan this QR code to find your polling place



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Locally, Goldman has secured \$250,000 for the Grand Street Settlement and \$370,000 for the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Downtown Independent Democrats endorses Dan Goldman for Congress.

State Comptroller

The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state and manages the state's investment funds. Tom DiNapoli is the current comptroller and two candidates seek to replace him: Raj Goyle and Drew Warshaw. Both have impressive credentials and thoughtful ideas.

However, DiNapoli has the experience and reliability – that's what counts. Under his command, the state's pension fund has grown to a record \$291.4 billion, with one of the strongest funded ratios in the nation.

His office actively uses its proxy voting rights to challenge major corporations on issues like excessive executive compensation, workers' rights, and climate risk disclosure. Mr. DiNapoli's 19 years of scandal-free stewardship proves he is the best choice for the state's finances.

We endorse Tom DiNapoli for Comptroller.

There is no Democratic primary for governor, lieutenant governor or attorney general this year. Those candidates are running unopposed.

Democratic State Committee - 65th A. D.

State Committee members are grassroots-level elected officials who act as a bridge between the NY State Democratic Party and the voters in their district. A volunteer role, it carries weight in shaping the party's platform and endorsements.

In the 65th Assembly District, two candidates are vying for the female state committee position: Fannie Ip and Graven Olivares.

Ms. Olivares is the current president of Community Education Council 1 and a member of Community Board 3.

Fannie Ip is a tireless community advocate. She is active in Neighbors United Below Canal and founded the Friends of Montgomery Triangle Park. Fannie sits on the board of directors of her Mitchell-Lama coop, Gouverneur Gardens.

Downtown Independent Democrats endorses Fannie Ip for State Committeewoman.