



DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

VITTORIA FARIELLO
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DISTRICT LEADERS
61st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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VICTORIA LEE 李佩欣
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GARDENHIRE
DISTRICT LEADERS
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Jo Anne Simon for Congress

This year's redistricting has placed us in a brand-new congressional district. The new district covers all of Manhattan south of 14th Street and large swaths of northwest Brooklyn. Current West Side Congressman Jerry Nadler and East Side Congresswomen Carolyn Maloney and Nydia Velazquez will no longer be representing downtown next year. A dozen candidates are vying for the new seat.

Our membership – dozens of local grassroots activists – have interviewed these candidates at open public meetings, examined their records, and appraised their positions. Here is what we determined.

The candidate with the largest war chest is Mondaire Jones, a first-term congressman who currently represents a congressional district in suburban upstate New York. Due to redistricting, Mr. Jones faced a very competitive challenger there. Rather than take that challenge, Jones decided to move to Brooklyn in June to run in our district.

Jones has a solid progressive record. However, we question his knowledge of our community. Other candidates know our needs and have immensely more local experience. Mr. Jones has been a congressman for only one year and a neighbor for only one summer. Is he prepared to represent you in Congress?

Another candidate is Daniel Goldman, a former prosecutor who served as lead counsel in the 2019 impeachment investigation of Donald Trump.

Goldman helped draft the Protecting Our Democracy Act to prevent presidential abuses of power, restore oversight powers to Congress, and protect whistleblowers.

Goldman is committed to 100% affordable housing at 5

World Trade Center. He seeks to expand Medicare by lowering age eligibility and he promises to fight for increased federal funding for free pre-K and early childhood developments.

However, although a local resident for fifteen years, he has shown negligible, if any, interest in community issues. We are also concerned that his campaign has accepted thousands of dollars from developer Stephen Ross, the noted Trump supporter.

Current East Side Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou is an advocate for working families and brings a progressive record to the table. She has encouraged the marginalized and disenfranchised to become civically engaged. Niou is accessible and supportive of community – not corporate – needs.

However, Niou has said that she gave up her Assembly seat this spring to run for State Senate in order to have a greater voice in the State legislature. We now question why she then dropped out of that race to run for Congress.

After Bill de Blasio dropped out of this race, another contender, City Councilmember Carlina Rivera, has scored thousands of campaign dollars from the ex-mayor's contributors, mostly real-estate developers and lobbyists. No wonder!

- Rivera championed the SoHo/NoHo/Chinatown upzoning, de Blasio's parting gift to his real-estate contributors. Tellingly, she never condemned the ugly accusations from real estate lobbyists who vilified Rivera's many constituents opposing the scheme.

- Rivera voted to impose a recurring \$25,000 fine on SoHo/NoHo residents who were not "certified" artists. This legislation was so brutal and vindictive that Mayor Adams vetoed it, the first mayoral veto in eight years.

- Rivera reneged on a 2017 campaign promise to seek neighborhood zoning protections to offset the construction of a 258,000 square-foot, 22-story tall, privately owned commercial building built on city-owned land on East 14th Street, billed as "Midtown South".

- Rivera refuses to support 100% affordable at the planned residential building at 5 World Trade Center, thus squandering the last opportunity for desperately needed 100% affordable housing in Lower Manhattan.

- Rivera was a torchbearer for de Blasio's so-called East River Resiliency Plan, a flood-mitigation proposal. Rivera's support for his ill-conceived project has resulted in the destruction of 1,000 trees in the East River Park.

Rather than working with local environmental activists to try to reach an acceptable resolution, Rivera publicly denounced them and fought against the previous, community-approved design.

We continue to be disappointed when Rivera pits neighbor against neighbor on critical community issues.

In sharp contrast, Brooklyn Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon proudly proclaims she is a community activist. Indeed she is.

Her stellar track record as an activist and legislator, both in the city and in Albany – where she chairs the Committee on Ethics and Guidance and where she helped create the Progressive Caucus – affirms her commitment to her constituents.

Ms. Simon holds a master's degree in Education of the Deaf. After graduating from Fordham Law School, she started her own disability-rights law firm. Along those lines, Simon has worked for years with education activists to support the implementation of an innovative program for dyslexic students.



Jo Anne is a leader in Albany, pushing through historic legislation on gun violence prevention, education, gender equity, and campaign finance reform.

She helped secure election reforms and voting rights, equal pay for equal work, paid family leave, sexual harassment protections, marriage equality, and free school meals.

Ms. Simon has first-hand experience with community rezoning, battling against displacement and for maximum affordable housing in her Brooklyn district.

A fierce community advocate, Simon fought to save the Long Island College Hospital, demanded more affordable housing in Brooklyn's Atlantic Yard development, secured the city's first traffic calming study, and worked with her community to clean up the toxic Gowanus Canal.

Ms. Simon shares our vision of a pluralistic New York City, where middle-class and working-class people, as well as the very rich and the very poor can live, work and thrive.

We endorse Jo Anne Simon for Congress.

Vittoria Fariello for State Senate

This election pits the incumbent state senator, Brian Kavanagh, against two challengers: Danyela Egorov, a parent activist, and our preferred candidate, Vittoria Fariello, a human-rights lawyer, political activist and Democratic district leader for lower Manhattan.

Mr. Kavanagh is a seasoned legislator. But we feel we need new representation in Albany. We want a representative who will engage and stand with our downtown community to find creative solutions to complex problems. Such a person is Vittoria Fariello.

Vittoria is a fighter unafraid to challenge the back-room deals and special interests that have hand-picked our elected officials for too long.

A downtown resident for 25 years, immigrant and mother of four, Fariello was elected as Democratic district leader in 2017. She lost no time challenging the shenanigans of the New York County political machine.



She rallied like-minded district leaders to change the party rules that had allowed party bosses to abuse their power. She also successfully sued a party boss who attempted to disenfranchise newly-elected grassroots party activists.

Vittoria has been a leader of the *Coalition for a 100% Affordable 5 World Trade Center*, which also seeks preference for 9/11 survivors and first responders.

Ms. Fariello began her public-service career as a community organizer in Brooklyn, working with public-assistance recipients who had their benefits threatened by the Giuliani administration.

Other efforts include her investigation of organized crime in the Manhattan DA's Rackets Bureau. She supported human-rights cases worldwide with the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and served in the Immigration Unit of the Legal Aid Society.

Vittoria even worked with prosecutors in her native Italy rooting out corruption in the fraud-ridden administration of notorious prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi.

Currently Fariello is a partner in her law firm, a public-service practice that handles #MeToo cases and defends whistle blowers, to list a few examples.

Once in Albany, Vittoria will fight to pass the game changing New York Health Act to bring universal health care to all New Yorkers.

She pledges to fully fund the Environmental Bond Act, supports the installation of economically sound offshore turbines, and supports a Green New Deal for New York. Furthermore, Fariello vows to prioritize environmental justice for communities that have born the brunt of pollution and the effects of extreme weather, for example, NYCHA housing.

Fariello has been endorsed by Councilmember Christopher Marte, who says this of her, "Vittoria Fariello unequivocally stands with the working people of Lower Manhattan. I've been with Vittoria on picket lines and at protests. Vittoria doesn't waver from a fight and has impressed me with her commitment to the urgent needs of her future constituents."

Fariello's accomplishments, values and drive are what is needed in Albany. We are confident she will make the best senator for our district.

We endorse Vittoria Fariello for State Senate.

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What is DID?

The Downtown Independent Democrats reform club formed in the loft district during the McGovern 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, Chinatown, the Financial District, the 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.

If you have any questions or problems, call us at 646-309-9435 or contact the Board of Elections at 212-VOTE-NYC or www.vote.nyc.ny.us.

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