Agenda:

1. 73rd Assembly District Candidate Forum
2. Announcements

Candidate Forum:

-President Jerry Ferguson introduces the candidate forum and lets people know we do not usually endorse in the 73rd assembly district, but the board decided to offer membership the option in a redistricting year

**1. Kellie Leeson**

Opening remarks: She is a humanitarian leader. Knows how to run an organization from her time in the non-profit world. She is unhappy with the budget’s not investing in NYers (see Invest in Our NY Coalition for full priorities). She will work with activist to push better priorities in Albany

Q1: What are your views on Bail Reform?

Hears people concerns about safety, but thinks that we can be better served by making investments that will prevent crime in the long term. Examples of this are funding housing, local grants that stabilize communities, CURE, etc… Talked about the harms of jailing people pre-trial

Q2: Would you support making it easier to make wrongful convictions lawsuits?

Unfamiliar with specific bill, but supports the concept

Q3: What 1 Item would you want to include in the budget? How much of a budget surplus would you like to have?

Fully fund universal childcare. The current plan in the budget is just a stopgap, doesn’t take care of supply problem, workers wage problem, and doesn’t solve it long-term. Says the rainy day is now so we should be spending the money that we have instead of the rainy day fund.

Closing Statement:

Has a more global view than other candidates and her experience with other system will allow her to propose solutions that have worked other places. She also has the connections in Albany to hit the ground running

**2. Adam Roberts**

Opening Statement:

Has worked in politics for a long time. Worked for Ben Kallos, for architects, and other places in politics. More housing in the whole state (Market, affordable, and supportive), Complete 2nd Ave Subway, Better safety (hate crimes, traffic violence, mental health funding, etc…). Raised over $100,000, first candidate to turn in signatures, and a long-time club member.

Q1: What are your views on Bail Reform?

I understand the fear people have especially with the rise in hate crimes. We should not be rolling back bail reform, but we can make some tweaks. A lot of this is because we stopped making long-term investments in mental health, housing and other crime prevention.

Q2: Where do you stand on changing the law to allow Resigned officials to get off the ballot?

Very timely because of the Lt. Gov’s scandal. We should change this and it is an example of the bad system that prioritizes insiders. We need election reform on this and other issues to make New York elections fairer

Q3: What legislation would you support on housing that would lead to an increase in Affordable Housing?

We need to build more housing so we don’t end up like San Francisco. Lift FAR (Floor Area Ratio) cap (that’s why they have the tall skinny buildings on 57th st) and allow Transit oriented development.

We live in the densest part of the country. We in Manhattan should be building more housing so people can live in place. That’s why so many people move to NJ and CT where they are building housing.

Q4: What issues in Education?

Lack of interest in education because young people are being pushed out of the city. This is a great school district (the Best!). Major issue is lack of funding for capital issues. Buildings are falling apart. School Construction Authority is building schools, but not retrofitting buildings. Many schools don’t have AC and heat.

We have laws requiring that all large buildings obey emission limits, problem is that the city is not funding and former Gov. Cuomo tried to sabotage it.

Q5: Doormen’s contract negotiations?

Too many people underrate doormen. Without union doormen buildings fall apart. In his own life the temp doormen ruined his floors by not knowing the building.

**3. Alex Bores**

Born and raised on Upper East Side. Only public-school candidate. Entire career in government technology has showed the pluses and minuses of government and how to improve it. Has several major endorsements, has highest total raised for any candidate who has released numbers and is a person who works hard and shows up. Club members have seen how hard he works

Q1: What should be done about the Environment?

NYS bans con ed from producing more renewable energy, Sen Kruger’s bill ending Fossil fuel subsidies. NY power authority is 70% renewable, let’s get to 100%. Supports lines from Canada to bring clean hydropower. Subsidize weatherization.

Q2: Do you support the wrongful conviction bill?

He knows the bill and supports it. It is Dan Quart’s (the previous Assembly member) bill and he supports pushing it forward

Q3: Do you support Bail Reform?

Even Governor Hochul said that bail reform hasn’t increased crime. Have to stop money from deciding if you get a fair trial. However, public safety is important and people are worried. Bail rollbacks hasn’t had an effect on crime. Have to tackle long term issues. Biggest thing we can do is expand SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program) which is the largest individual intervention against crime.

Bail reform is such a big deal because we don’t have enough staff to ensure a speedy trial so people held can be waiting longer than their eventual sentence. Enhance data so judges can see across districts to make sure they aren’t putting people with serious warrants on the street. Need to do what is proven to work

Q4: How to deal with the mental health issues students are facing?

Foundation aid is being paid too slowly. If it is sped up we can hire more non-teacher staff to deal with the issues. State provides one third of NYC education funding. Education funding was left out of the budget and that was a mistake

Q5: What would you do to create more affordable housing?

Legalize ADUs (accessary dwelling units) and allow transit oriented development is very big for market rate housing (also because it will take cars off the road). Preserve NYCHA and current affordable housing for lower income housing. 10% of supportive housing is currently empty because we sort with pen and paper instead of a modern computer system.

1. **Russell Squire**

Russell is chairing Community Board 8 so cannot make it. Peter Worack is speaking for him (former head of Lex Club) Russell requests we do not endorse since Lex Club did not endorse in our assembly race. Traditionally clubs organize by Assembly District so none of Four Freedoms territory is in the 73rd. The Clubs have worked together well in the past and we shouldn’t hurt the relationship.

Q1: How do you make housing more affordable.

Chair of community Board 8 has exp on housing. Check out his website for specific details

Q2: Why we should a candidate get a vote on who endorses?

Russell is chairing community board meeting so he can’t be here. He agrees that candidates can’t dictate who endorses, but he as a lex club member is offended.

Q3: What are his policies on taxes?

Encourage you to check out his website

Q4: Why aren’t you presenting the policies?

Because he doesn’t think we should endorse

**5. May Malik**

First woman, immigrant and person of color to represent the area if elected. Public school mom and public servant. Wants to move district in an inclusive direction. Raised $7 mil for youth development as head of department in the city. Worked alongside advocates and community based organizations to make NYC more welcoming. Advocating for NYers in every corner of the city.

Immigrated in 1989 and has succeeded beyond her parents wildest dreams. Parents worked hard in low paying jobs to provide her education which allowed her to build a great career. Head of largest agency that helps immigrants. Has government experience. Knows what holds back immigrant families. Single-mom. Was working full-time until the campaign. Wants to make sure everyone can live in NYC.

Q1: Protecting Small Businesses?

Working with small businesses is very rewarding because small businesses are so important to community cohesiveness. Half of businesses in this district are small businesses, but they are in danger. Especially immigrant owned businesses are in danger. One immediate thing we can do is a marketing campaign. She oversaw the ID NYC push. Wants to create specialized fund that will support small business marketing grants.

Q2: Do you support the wrongful conviction bill?

She supports the concept, but has not seen the bill. Is very excited about the concept. As a Black Muslim she has seen the issue first hand in her own community so it is especially important to her. Calls it a no brainer

Q3: What is your opinion on Bail Reform?

I come from communities that are over-policed. People aren’t getting the correct info on crime and they are scared. It was shown that there is no negative impact on public safety. We need to both reassure people who are scared and not harm people. Need to better explain bail reform.

[Four Freedoms went into closed session so members can share their opinions on candidates]

Alex Bores got 75% of votes so is endorsed for the 73rd assembly district

Announced the Spring Fundraiser on May 12th at Bohemian Spirit (321 e 73rd St)