

October 20, 2022 General Meeting at Draesel Hall at Holy Trinity

Meeting Minutes

1. President Jerry Ferguson opened
2. Jerry welcomed former East River Democratic Club members
 - As stated at September 14th FFDC General meeting, the East River Democratic Club voted to dissolve and its members were encouraged to join FFDC.
3. Nominations for 2023 Officers and Members-at-Large of the Executive Board
 - Elections at Annual Meeting on November 19th for January-December 2023 term
 - Policies and criteria for nominating members to the Board were reviewed, including:
 - Members have 5 days to submit nominations after tonight
 - Eligibility criteria for Board member includes:
 - Payment of dues 90 days before election on November 19th Annual Meeting
 - Not being a dues-paying and voting member of another club
 - Other criteria set forth in the constitution
 - [https://assets.nationbuilder.com/fourfreedomsnyc/pages/1442/attachments/original/1660566161/FFDC Constitution Nov 18 2021.pdf?1660566161](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/fourfreedomsnyc/pages/1442/attachments/original/1660566161/FFDC_Constitution_Nov_18_2021.pdf?1660566161)
 - Nominations:
 - President: Jerry Ferguson
 - Vice President: Frank Wilkinson
 - Treasurer: John Bartos
 - Recording Secretary: Kit Morrison
 - Corresponding Secretary: Jordan Stein
 - Members-at-large:
 - Flor de Maria Eilets
 - Debra Freeman
 - Robert Jackman
 - Arlene Kayatt (decline)
 - Ben Akselrod
 - Len Lubinsky
 - Dov Gibor
 - Chris Reagan
 - Matt Lombardi
 - Ruth Halberg
 - Amy Schwartz
 - Lori Bores
 - Todd Stein
 - John Wagner
4. 4 Ballot Initiatives for November 9th Elections
 - District Leaders Gabe Panek and Rebecca Weintraub reviewed the proposals, noting that many people were unaware they will be on the back of the voting ballot

- Proposal 1: Clean water, clean air and green jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (NYS)
- Proposal 2: Statement of Values for City Government (NYC)
- Proposal 3: Racial Equity Plans and Office (NYC)
- Proposal 4: True Cost of Living (NYC)
- Members briefly discussed areas of concern. FFDC supported.

5. State Committee Members Erica Vladimer & Jeremy Berman state nothing to report

6. Elections campaigning actions and opportunities

- Jordan Stein reported on the great turnout of FFDC members at election phone banks, held every Wednesdays. 10 phone bank co-sponsors, with FFDC members being the majority
- Kim Moscaritolo reported on the successful bus campaign, Vote Blue.NYC.

7. Candidate NYS Assemblymember Alex Bores campaign opportunities

- Val, Alex Bores' Campaign Manager, reviewed opportunities to volunteer for campaign
- Partnering with Governor Hochul campaign and NY Dems
- 10/29 kickoff canvass

8. 10/23 3pm "Rally to Wake Up Arms!" hosted by Manhattan BP Mark Levine

- Dov Gold-Medina reported on event at Verdi Square, UWS
- Over 30 Dem elected officials and candidates for Manhattan's biggest election rally in 2022
- Support Gov. Hochul & AG Tish James, state and local candidates, including AM Alex Bores

9. Taxation Reform Education and Resolution

- John Wagner, Taxation Working Group Chair, introduced the speakers, followed by brief Q&A
 - Howard Chernick, PhD, Professor at Hunter College.
Tax expert who sits on the board of ITEP (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy) non-profit, non-partisan progressive think tank devoted to tax policy).
 - Senator Liz Krueger, Senate Finance Committee Chair
Member, Budget and Revenue Committee, Rules Committee, Women's Caucus
- "Resolution on Reforming the US and NY Tax Systems" from Taxation Working Group was read, followed by considerable discussion.
- Motion was made to table the Resolution because of need for more time to further discuss, and to be voted on at next meeting in November. Motion was adopted.
- Link to Resolution

Amy Schwartz, scribe