



**PRIMARY  
DAY #2  
ISSUE**

# ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

## Ultra-Low Turnout Creates an Opportunity for Our Union

If you've read the earlier articles on this site, you know that we predicted the Tuesday, August 23rd Primary to potentially be the lowest turnout election in New York history. And preliminary numbers from the early voting period that ended on Sunday are proving that out.

Early numbers released by the NYC Board of Elections tell us that as of Sunday, roughly 76,000 voters had been checked-in at early voting sites across the five boroughs (preliminary numbers are not available statewide). Now, it should be remembered that only voters registered in a certain party can vote in those primaries, so only voters registered as Democrats can vote in the Democratic Primary and only voters registered as Republicans can vote in the Republican Primary. This "closed" primary system means a reduced turnout, as the approximately 1.2 million voters registered as blank (also known as no party affiliation or "independent"), Working Families or Conservative in New York legally can't partake. With that said, the combined total of registered Republicans and Democrats in NYC—the eligible primary voters—is 4,326,587. Seventy-six thousand early voters equals an abysmally low 1.8% of the total eligible voters in NYC.

While this astoundingly low voter turnout is a shame and a disgrace, it creates a great opportunity for us a union-members. The vast majority of voters in New York City do not have a dedicated resource—such as the MTDCPAC—to turn to for centralized election information and a list of candidates that have been interviewed and vetted by a committee of union members to ensure that, if elected, will support our jobs and our members.

"Think about it this way," said PAC Director Mike McGuire. "With such a small amount of votes being cast, 20 or 50 or 100 votes in any particular district could easily sway your election in the union's favor, and thus, in your professional favor. Otherwise, we are letting 2% of the population make these important decisions regarding our working lives for us. So, if you haven't voted yet, I urge all of our members living in New York to look at the endorsed candidates list below and get out there and vote for those candidates tomorrow, Tuesday August 23rd, Election Day! Trust me...your hours, your benefits and your wallet will thank you for it!"

**Local 66  
General  
Building  
Laborers**

**Local 78  
Asbestos,  
Lead &  
Hazardous  
Waste  
Laborers**

**Local 79  
Construction &  
General Building  
Laborers**

**Local 108  
Recycling &  
General  
Industrial  
Laborers**

**Local 1261  
Lay Faculty  
Association**

**Mason Tenders  
District Council  
P.A.C.**

Joel Burgos  
Steve Flanagan  
Pawel Gruchacz  
Mike Hellstrom  
John Norbury  
Mike Prohaska  
Chaz Rynkiewicz  
Frederick "Fritz" Schneider  
Barrie Smith

Mike McGuire  
Director

Kris Kohler  
Assistant Director

Josh Slaughter  
LI Field Representative

Ari Espinal  
NYC Field Representative

**266 W. 37th Street  
7th Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
Telephone:  
212-452-9552**



**Polls in New York State are open from  
6:00 AM until 9:00 PM on Tuesday, August 23rd.**

To find your polling place in New York State go to:

<https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>

## Laborers' Priority Candidates



**MONICA  
MARTINEZ**

**STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 4  
(southern parts of  
Suffolk County)**

Monica Martinez was the State Senator from the 3rd District from 2018 to 2020. She lost that seat in a hotly contested race in 2020. But now because of the new lines drawn as part of the redistricting process, she finds herself living in the 4th District, and so is attempting to reclaim a seat in the State Senate. In her prior stint in Albany, Monica was very productive, being the prime sponsor of eighty pieces of legislation, many helpful to the Laborers and other unions. Monica is endorsed by LIUNA-NY, the Teachers union, the Retail Wholesale and Department Store workers, and most public safety unions, including the NYC PBA. Her challenger is Assemblymember Phil Ramos, who has nothing to lose. Due to a quirk caused by this year's whacky election calendar, Ramos still gets to run for Assembly this year even if he loses the Senate primary to Martinez.



**ANNA  
KAPLAN**

**STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 7  
(parts of Long Island's  
north shore)**

As chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development, and Small Business, Senator Kaplan has been in a good position to support our union. She has supported responsible economic development projects on Long Island that created thousands of construction and other jobs and helped reduce the local tax burden for residents. During the pandemic, Senator Kaplan delivered billions of dollars in grants, tax cuts and relief for small businesses struggling to keep their staffs employed during those hard times. Anna Kaplan proudly fought to pass a permanent cap on property tax hikes that has saved Long Island taxpayers millions of dollars and this year, she delivered a \$2.2 billion homeowner tax rebate, saving eligible Nassau homeowners an average of \$1,387 on their property taxes. Anna has been endorsed by the Laborers, Teachers, Nurses, 32BJ, 1199, Electricians, Carpenters, Auto Workers, the NYS Building Trades and many more. Anna is being challenged by Jeremy Joseph, a Democratic Socialists of America organizer.

**WE ARE  
LiUNA!**

*Feel the Power*

# PRIORITY CANDIDATES



## JOE ADDABBO

STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 15  
(parts of southwestern  
Queens)

The Laborers have rarely had a friend in politics as loyal as Senator Joe Addabbo. Over the years, we've come to realize that the folks elected to Albany or Washington who started in the New York City Council are the best and easiest with whom to work. Having come from the Council, they already know our issues, our leaders, and our union. It's rare for us to pass Joe Addabbo in the halls of the Capitol without Joe stopping us and asking "Is there anything the union needs?" That is unusual treatment, as we normally have to jump through some hoops with Senators to discuss what's important to the union. With Joe, he asks how he can help us, instead of the other way around. Joe Addabbo is a true friend of the Laborers. He has been endorsed by us, received and overwhelming early endorsement from the NYS AFL-CIO and has been strongly endorsed by virtually every major union in the state. His opponent, Albert Baldeo, ran for Assembly in June against our friend David Weprin and lost, and is now running against our friend Senator Addabbo. Baldeo's biggest claim to fame is that he ran for City Council in 2010, and was later convicted of attempting to interfere in an FBI investigation into whether or not his campaign used straw donors to fund his City Council run. He spent 18 months in prison and had his law license stripped by the state.



## KEVIN PARKER

STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 21  
(parts of central and  
southern Brooklyn)

We've known and worked with Senator Kevin Parker for many years, and we can always count on him when we need support. This week, the NYS AFL-CIO overwhelmingly endorsed Kevin for re-election. After all, why wouldn't they when we're talking about a man who said "In the State of New York, no one should struggle to make an honest living with a living wage and benefits." If every politician in NYS thought that way, we'd all be in a better place. Kevin's extensive background in finance makes him uniquely qualified to have labor's back in the halls of Albany. Senator Parker knows that New York will continue to be the epitome of the American Dream where everyone can have a piece of its economic pie. We urge all of our members in the 21st Senate District in Brooklyn to re-elect Senator Kevin Parker. Parker faces two challengers in his newly redrawn district, including David Alexis, who is backed by the Democratic Socialists of America.

The strongest ally of organized labor in the New York State Senate has decided to not run for re-election. Diane Savino, a former officer of AFSCME, could always be counted on to support, introduce and pass worker-friendly legislation. She will certainly be missed, but fortunately for us, her former Chief of Staff is running for the seat. Jessica Scarcella-Spanton worked with Savino for most of the last five years, where she proved herself to also be a strong labor supporter. Jessica being a union supporter is no accident. Jessica's



## JESSICA SCARCELLA- SPANTON

STATE SENATE  
DISTRICT 23  
(north and east Staten  
Island and parts of  
Brooklyn)

# PRIORITY CANDIDATES

father was actually a UFT chapter leader—in Laborers’ language, he was the shop steward for the entire school where he taught. Further, her uncle is a union delegate with the Uniformed Firefighters Association, the firemen’s union for New York City. Throughout her career, Jessica has stood shoulder to shoulder with nurses fighting for safe staffing, CWA workers doing all they can to ensure that good-paying jobs remain on Staten Island, and she is standing proudly with the Amazon Labor Union. As Senator, we are confident that she will work to expand the right to organize and is already working on the new issue of organizing people who now work from home in the wake of COVID 19. We proudly endorse Jessica Scarcella-Spanton and look forward to working with her to improve the lives of Laborers, and all other union members, in New York!

take the job of another friend. And apparently the rest of labor agrees: along with the Laborers, Gounardes has been endorsed by the NYS AFL-CIO, the NYC Central Labor Council, 32BJ, Autoworkers, Nurses, Communications Workers, the PBA, the Fire Officers, RWDSU, Transport Workers, DC 37, the Carpenters and PSC-CUNY. With a lineup like that, you can rest assured that Andrew Gounardes is the best choice for New York’s unions!



**ANDREW**  
**GOUNARDES**

**STATE SENATE**  
**DISTRICT 26**  
(parts of western  
Brooklyn from Dumbo to  
Fort Hamilton)

This is an interesting race. State Senator Andrew Gounardes has proven himself to be a good ally of our union since winning this seat back in 2018. Interesting because at that time he beat Marty Golden, one of the few Republican State Senators in New York City, and Marty was someone with whom we could work. Now, he’s being challenged by former City Councilman David Yassky, who was also someone we worked with when he was in office. There were two deciding factors in our endorsement of Gounardes. He has a strong record of working with the Laborers and other unions, and understanding our issues...Gounardes even serves as Chairman of Committee on Civil Service and Pensions; and we have a policy of, if there’s no overwhelmingly compelling reason, we do not support one friend when he or she wants to



**ROBERT**  
**JACKSON**

**STATE SENATE**  
**DISTRICT 31**  
(Upper Manhattan from  
Washington Heights to  
Inwood)

State Senator Robert Jackson, very much like State Senator Joe Addabbo, has been a good friend of our union since he was first elected as a member of the City Council back in 2001. Robert is a union member—Public Employees Federation (PEF)—and has always stood strong with NYC’s labor community. For those of you who have been members for several decades or more, you may remember the campaign against Rapid Demolition in 2002. Robert Jackson held City Council hearings specifically about that contractor and helped us come out victorious. And he hasn’t stopped helping us since. Whenever Robert has held elective office, he’s always been ready, willing and able to fight for our members. With the departure of Senator Diane Savino, Robert will become the senior union-member legislator in Albany and the leading voice for workers. We urge all of our members who live uptown to re-elect Robert Jackson to the NYS Senate!

# PRIORITY CANDIDATES



## MIGUELINA CAMILO

**STATE SENATE DISTRICT 33**  
(Parts of the Bronx from Riverdale to Van Nest)

In another quirk of this year's odd election cycles, in District 33 the Laborers' have endorsed attorney Miguelina Camilo in what should have been an open seat. However, Miguelina's opponent, current State Senator Gustavo Rivera, in an action now known as "district shopping" chose not to run where he actually lives, but in the adjoining district, apparently thinking a non-incumbent would be easier to beat. First things first, we firmly believe elected officials should represent the people in their own neighborhoods, where they actually live, not people in districts where it may be easier to win. Second, while always cordial, Senator Rivera has taken positions against some of our strongest allies, such as Assemblymembers Mike Benedetto and Jeff Dinowitz. Miguelina is an accomplished attorney, and although this is her first run for office, she's no stranger to the political world. She served as Associate Counsel for the Board of Elections in the City of New York and as Bronx County Democratic Commissioner of the Board of Elections, where she ensured elections were held in a fair and legal manner. She currently serves as President of the Bronx Women's Bar Association, where she is the first President of Dominican descent for the association, and 100 Hispanic Women – Bronx Chapter. Miguelina has been endorsed by almost every elected official in the Bronx, as well as by the Laborers, Carpenters and District Council 37.



## NATHALIA FERNANDEZ

**STATE SENATE DISTRICT 34**  
(East Bronx and parts of Westchester)

Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez is looking to move up the ladder, running for the vacant State Senate seat in the Bronx that overlaps with her current Assembly District. The Laborers have supported Nathalia since her first run for Assembly in 2018, having known her from her stints as Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's Chief of Staff and Governor Cuomo's Bronx Representative. In her time in the Assembly, Fernandez has supported several Laborers' bills, including the MTDCPAC-authored Construction Workplace Fatality Registry. Fernandez says she's seeking a Senate seat because it would allow her to generate more resources for the Bronx as she expressed habitual and legislative underinvestment by the state in regards to housing, safety and community services. Her overall record on labor is proved by her endorsements. Along with the Laborers, Nathalia has received the endorsements of DC37, 1199, 32BJ, the United Federation of Teachers, the NYS Nurses Association, Professional Staff Congress-CUNY and the NYS AFL-CIO.



## ELIZABETH CROWLEY

**STATE SENATE DISTRICT 59**  
(Eastside of Manhattan 14th-46th, Astoria, Long Island City & parts of Greenpoint and Williamsburg)

The race for the 59th Senate District may be the most important campaign the Laborers are participating in this year. There are two reasons for that. First, the newly formed 59th District encompasses the waterfronts in Williamsburg, Greenpoint, LIC and Astoria—areas where vast amounts of construction are happening; and second, our candidate for this seat is an actual sister from the Building Trades, DC9-member Elizabeth Crowley. Having been a working painter

# PRIORITY CANDIDATES

before entering politics, no one in Albany understands the ins-and-outs of the trades more than Elizabeth. She understands the obvious stuff, such as development and job creation, but she also understands the small things that make our lives better on a daily basis, such as how hiring halls work and the importance of getting enough hours in to keep our benefits paid up. In her former position as a City Council member, Elizabeth Crowley always had our backs at the Laborers, and truly of all the trades, and there is no doubt that she will do the same in the Senate. With the loss of Diane Savino, when elected,

Elizabeth Crowley will be the most important voice for construction workers in Albany. Simply put, she is our friend, our colleague and our sister. We can count on her. She does have a credible opponent (although “credible” could be called into question here, as her opponent is a self-professed socialist who lives in a luxury tower built non-union in Long Island City and works for American Express) so we need all of our members who live in these neighborhoods to get out and elect our sister, Elizabeth Crowley, the next Senator from the 59th District!

## Dual Endorsements? No Endorsements? What the...?

As is the case with almost everything in this wacky New York political year, the chart of endorsements may be somewhat confusing. In one race, we made a proactive decision to endorse two of the three candidates in the Democratic primary. In another three, we decided to make no endorsement, but for very different reasons. And of course, in another six House seats, there will be no primary. Here's our thinking on all that:

### Dual Maloney/Nadler Endorsement

As you know, the once-a-decade redrawing of the political lines upended New York State's political process, forcing some candidates to run against longtime colleagues, others to run for seats that are literally more than a dozen miles from where they live, and several more to go what has become known as “district shopping.” District shopping is the concept that it doesn't matter in which district I actually live, I'm going to run in a different district where I think it will be easier to win. If and when I do win, then I'll move into the district.

The Maloney/Nadler matchup is a result of the two districts being drawn into one. For many years, Jerry Nadler represented the westside of Manhattan, the Financial District, and from there then jumped the river to pick up sections of Brooklyn. Carolyn Maloney, on the other hand, represented the east side of Manhattan, and also

crossed the river to pick up Astoria and Long Island City in Queens, then across Newtown Creek to cover Greenpoint and Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

But the Special Master (the government official appointed by a judge to redraw the first set of lines) drew a new district, designated as the 12th NY Congressional District, to encompass everything in Manhattan—river-to-river—from roughly 14th Street to 98th Street. This put Nadler, who lives on the Upper Westside and Maloney, who lives on the Upper Eastside, in the same district, forcing them to run against each other as both are aiming to keep their seat in Congress.

Now that you know why they are running against each other, the question becomes: why did the PAC choose to endorse both of them? The answer to that is quite simple: both have been very good friends to the Laborers over the years. Carolyn Maloney was the lead member of Congress on 9/11 survivors. It's hard to believe that awful day is now almost 21 years behind us, and many of our younger members may not know that at one point there were more Laborers working on the rescue-and-recovery effort and the clean-up than every other union combined. We've lost members to 9/11 related illnesses and many current members—both active and retired—are suffering from those same illnesses today. The 9/11 attacks exposed thousands of people to a poisonous nightmare. Maloney first worked



**Rep. Carolyn Maloney**

## US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### DISTRICT 12

# Joint Endorsement



**Rep. Jerry Nadler**

to establish and fund the WTC Medical Monitoring Program, and then set about ensuring compensation for our members who worked on “the pile” by reactivating and restructuring the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). These efforts were codified into law with the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, which Maloney authored.

In October, 2018, the Special Master of the Victim’s Compensation Fund first indicated the VCF would face a funding shortfall. Maloney immediately introduced the Never Forget the Heroes: Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act to fully fund and make permanent the VCF. Unfortunately, with Donald Trump in the White House, and the GOP controlling both the House and the Senate, the Republican Party killed this vital bill. However, it was reintroduced in 2019 and passed the (by then) Democrat-controlled House by an overwhelming vote of 407-12. What followed was a full-bore shaming campaign against the Republicans for turning their backs on first-responders, until the Republican-controlled Senate folded and passed the bill as well. The VCF is now fully funded until 2090, when, presumably, everyone who worked on the pile will have passed on.

This is not to say that Jerry Nadler played no role in taking care of our members on the pile. Nadler was a co-sponsor of Maloney’s Never Forget the Heroes Act, a huge supporter of the VCF from its beginning, and secured the funding for the 9/11 memorial and museum at Ground Zero. On top of that, Nadler has been a forceful supporter of projects that would put thousands of Laborers to work. Widely considered to be one of the smartest members of Congress, long ago Nadler came to the realization that a greater tunnel

network was necessary to ensure supply-chain dependability. Nadler determined that at one point, 80% of the goods going to Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island were coming across the George Washington Bridge. Should there be a catastrophic bridge failure (think collapse or terrorist attack) more than 9 million residents in those five counties would face tremendous hardship.

Nadler began a big push for the Cross Harbor Freight Rail Project which would have carried rail cars of goods under New York Harbor to emerge in Maspeth, Queens. Unfortunately, even though that project was first proposed by Nadler in the 1990s, the Port Authority is still studying its feasibility. In the meantime, Nadler has turned his attention to another rail plan: The Gateway Project, to greatly increase commuter rail capacity under the Hudson River, understanding that the same catastrophic failure that would stop goods from coming across the GWB would also stop workers from getting to their jobs. This \$30 billion construction project took a great leap forward just before COVID hit, with Nadler securing \$650 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bill to help advance the project.

Which brings us to the issue of the dual endorsement. Both Carolyn Maloney and Jerry Nadler have fought hard for our members. They have fought hard for our members’ health. They have fought hard for our members’ jobs. They have fought hard for the Laborers’ Union. We really didn’t want to place one of these outstanding friends ahead of the other. We have supported both of their candidacies financially, and now we are leaving it up to the members who live in the 12th Congressional District. You make the choice: either vote for Jerry Nadler or Carolyn Maloney. You, and your union, will be the winner either way!

## The 'No Endorsements'

There are three US House races in which we've chosen to make no endorsements. If you read this webpage before the June 28th primary, you already know about two of them, in the 14th and 16th Congressional Districts. These are the two seats held by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Jamaal Bowman. Ocasio-Cortez and Bowman were two of only six Democrats across the entire country to vote down President Biden's signature \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure bill. Fortunately, fourteen Republican members of the House crossed over and voted for the legislation. I say fortunately, because without those crossover votes, Ocasio-Cortez and Bowman's anti-jobs, anti-worker stance would have killed the biggest construction jobs bill in United States history. You must understand that this PAC exists to make the lives of the members better. To make sure you have a job to go to, to make sure that you come home safe and sound at the end of the day, and to make sure you receive fair wages and good benefits. If either of these two candidates were facing opposition from someone who might actually win on August 23rd, we would have endorsed against Ocasio-Cortez and Bowman. However, sadly, that's not the case. Instead, we opted to inform you that these two members of the House from New York City are enemies of working men and women, and have not earned, nor do they deserve, the support of the Laborers' Union.

The other House race where we decided to stay out is the "new" 10th Congressional District in Manhattan and Brooklyn. While not actually a new district, it's being called that because when the Special Master redrew the lines, the only district that didn't have an incumbent member of Congress living within its lines was the 10th. So, not really new, just one with no member of the House actually attached to the district. As one might expect, an actual open seat draws quite a few candidates...thirteen in this case!

Half of the thirteen are political newcomers, with little to no chance of winning. But the other half is made up of people this PAC has known and worked with, in some cases, for years. Those include:

- Elizabeth Holtzman, who between 1973 and 1993 held the positions of US Congresswoman, Brooklyn District Attorney and NYC Comptroller.

- Yuh-line Niou, currently the Assemblywoman for the lower eastside. The Laborers have endorsed her in the past.
- Joanne Simon, currently the Assemblywoman for Cobble Hill, Gowanus and parts of DUMBO and Park Slope in Brooklyn. The Laborers have endorsed her in the past.
- Carlina Rivera, currently the City Councilwoman for the Lower Eastside, the East Village and Gramercy Park. The Laborers have endorsed her in the past.
- Mondaire Jones, currently the Congressman for the 17th District, representing the Hudson Valley in Northern Westchester and Rockland Counties.
- Dan Goldman, who was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York under Preet Bharara and the lead counsel in the first impeachment inquiry against Donald Trump.

With serious candidates like these we had some in-depth deliberations before we came to the conclusion that the best outcome was for us to stay out. First and foremost, many of these candidates hold very similar policy positions, and none of them has individually broken out of the pack to take a stand on Laborers' issues that would make them the candidate of choice. Remember that the PAC's mission is to increase and maintain the political power of the union to the betterment of the members. This is a very unique situation: a truly open seat with several allies in the running and no incumbent. There's an old rule of thumb in politics: every candidate wants you to endorse them, and if you can't endorse them, the next best thing for them is for you to stay out. With thirteen candidates, six of whom are powerbrokers, and four of whom are old allies, the smartest political move for your PAC is to stay out. If we make an endorsement, we run a 5-to-1 risk of damaging a relationship. When the winner wins, as we didn't endorse against them, there's "no harm, no foul" and we maintain the relationship in support of our members.

So, if you live in the new 10th Congressional District, do your research and try to determine which candidate would be best for you, for your family, and for your union. Then get out there and vote, this coming Tuesday, August 23rd!



# LIUNA ENDORSEMENTS 2022

## NEW YORK STATE SENATE

*District*

2 **Senator Mario Mattera**  
4 Monica Martinez  
5 Senator John Brooks  
6 Senator Kevin Thomas  
7 Senator Anna Kaplan  
9 Ken Moore  
10 Senator James Sanders  
11 Senator Tobi Stavisky  
12 Senator Michael Gianaris  
13 Senator Jessica Ramos  
14 Senator Leroy Comrie  
15 Senator Joe Addabbo  
16 Senator John Liu  
18 Senator Julia Salazar  
19 Senator Roxanne Persaud  
20 Senator Zellnor Myrie  
21 Senator Kevin Parker  
22 Senator Andrew Gounardes  
23 Jessica Scarcella-Spanton  
24 **Senator Andrew Lanza**  
26 Senator Brian Kavanaugh  
27 Senator Brad Hoylman  
28 Senator Liz Krueger  
29 Senator Jose Serrano  
30 Senator Cordelle Clear  
31 Senator Robert Jackson  
33 Miguelina Camilo  
34 Nathalia Fernandez

*District*

35 Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
36 Senator Jamaal Bailey  
37 Senator Shelly Mayer  
39 **Rob Rolison**  
41 Senator Michelle Hinchey  
42 Senator James Skoufis  
59 Elizabeth Crowley

## US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*District*

1 No Primary  
2 **Rep. Andrew Garbarino**  
3 John Kaiman  
4 Laura Gillen  
5 No Primary  
6 No Primary  
7 Rep. Nydia Velazquez  
8 Rep. Hakeem Jeffries  
9 No Primary  
10 No Endorsement  
11 **Rep. Nicole Malliotakis**  
12 Dual Endorsement!  
Rep. Carolyn Maloney and  
Rep. Jerry Nadler  
13 Rep. Adriano Espaillat  
14 NO ENDORSEMENT  
15 No Primary  
16 NO ENDORSEMENT  
17 No Primary

Endorsements in red denote Republican Party Primaries

## What is a Special Master?

We've mentioned "Special Masters" in two different contexts in this edition, so we thought we should let you know what these obscure yet powerful people do. The role of the special master (who is frequently, but not necessarily, a lawyer) is to supervise things falling under a court order to ensure that the court order is being followed. They are also charged with reporting on the activities of the entity being supervised to the judge or the judge's designated representatives in a timely matter. In other words, when a judge hands down an order, sometimes a Special Master will be appointed to be the enforcer!

# Results from the June Primary Election

The results of the first primary election held this year held few surprises, except for the weak showing by far-left progressive and socialist candidates. You will recall that this year's primary elections were split into two separate dates due to lawsuits brought after the decennial reapportionment of political districts of the US House and State Senate. No lawsuits were brought at that time against the Assembly lines, and of course, as the statewide positions have no lines except the state borders, there were no lines to redraw in the gubernatorial, attorney general or comptroller races.

**As expected, our candidate Kathy Hochul, sailed to victory with just under 70% in the three-way Democratic governor's primary, scoring more than double the vote of her two challengers' totals combined.**

On the Republican side, Lee Zeldin also cruised to victory—although not by Hochul's margins—with 44% in his four-way primary. Interestingly, the runner-up was Rudy Giuliani's son Andrew, a political newcomer who bested two Republican candidates who had run for Governor in the past, garnering 22%.

Hochul's freshly-minted running mate for Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, a Congressman from the Hudson Valley, also won

handily, grabbing 61% of the votes in that three-way race. Attorney General Tish James and Comptroller Tom Dinapoli did not face primary challenges, but will have to run against Republicans in November.

Those outcomes were widely expected, so came as no real surprise to anyone. The place where everyone thought the action would be was in the Assembly primaries. Since the election of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in 2018, far-left progressive candidates have been making a strong push to take over the State Senate, the City Council, and the Assembly. While we agree with many points of their agendas, their decidedly anti-construction, anti-development positions are problematic for our members' future work prospects. This is evidenced by the fact that only six Democrats in the House (out of 220) voted against the groundbreaking \$1.2 trillion infrastructure funding bill championed by President Biden. As LIUNA General President told us before that vote took place, "If this bill passes it will keep most of our members working for the next decade." All six of the Democrats who voted down the biggest construction funding bill in US history identify as progressives and/or socialists, including Ocasio-Cortez (Queens/Bronx) and Jamaal Bowman (Bronx/ Westchester). Those six negative votes would have been enough to kill hundreds of thousands of union construction jobs across the country, if it were not for

# MTDC PAC June Primary Results

# 85%



fourteen Republicans crossing the aisle and voting in favor of our member's jobs. Those Republican members of Congress included two in our territory: Nicole Maliotakis of Staten Island and Brooklyn; and Andrew Garbarino of Suffolk County.

In the Assembly, progressives mounted campaigns in 19 seats, almost all of them against sitting Democrats. They proved successful in only two of those races: the open seat for the 37th Assembly District in Sunnyside, Queens and the 103rd District in the Hudson Valley, where Building Trades ally Kevin Cahill was beaten by a slim 2% margin. Some political experts seem to think that this poor showing is due to the far left pushing their agenda too far, too fast. However, there isn't really enough data to support this notion because turnout for the June 28 primary was so low. For instance, in New York City, only 12% of registered Democrats and Republicans voted in their parties' primaries. For

the second round of primaries, coming up on August 23, voter turnout is expected to be even lower. While the June primary had the "star" power of Hochul at the top of the ticket to draw out voters, that doesn't exist for the August primary. Further, there are only a handful of truly competitive Congressional and State Senate races that day to bring the voters to the polls. In the waning days of August, with the start of the new school year on the horizon, many voters will be taking end-of-summer vacations before the kids go back to school, and with this being an unprecedented second primary in the same election season, a segment of the population likely won't even realize this primary is taking place. So expect record-low turnout and no further information telling us what the voters are thinking for future elections, particularly next year's City Council races.

## NEXT UP : PRIMARIES

# Round 2

As you all know, the strangeness of New York politics never ends, so on Tuesday, August 23 we have an unprecedented second set of primary elections in the same year. In June we dealt with the statewide offices and the State Assembly. On the 23rd we have the US House of Representatives and the State Senate. This oddity was caused by a legal challenge to newly redrawn political border lines.

Under Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution a census is mandated every ten years. It is conducted in the years that end in zero (e.g. 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020).

The census asks questions of people including how many people live or stay in each home, and the sex, age and race of each person. The goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. This is extremely important for many reasons, but the two most important are fair share and fair representation.

What do we mean by fair share and fair representation? Fair share is extremely important. We all pay taxes to the federal government, and while much of that money gets spent on overarching national issues, such as the military, the US intelligence agencies or the diplomatic corps, a great deal of the money gets allocated back to the states for federally-funded programs. These programs, such as public health, transportation and infrastructure spending, are extremely important to the states. Without an accurate census, how much goes back to each state cannot be determined. Without an accurate count, how would each state's share be determined? Perhaps the notion that there are 50 states, so the federal funds should be split equally 50 ways? That would be a patently unfair system. Think about it this way: after the 2020 census it was determined the population of New Hampshire was 1.3 million while the population of New York was 20.2 million, more than 15 times greater than New Hampshire. It wouldn't be right for the much smaller number of New Hampshire citizens (ranked 41st in the US) to get the same dollar amount back from the federal government as the much larger populace of New York (4th in the country). While there are no set-in-stone percentages, the census numbers are used as guidelines to fairly share federal resources.

Fair representation is another matter, and while it's one of the reasons we are in this mess of a political year, it is one of the most important tenets of the American system. The phrase "one man, one vote" was first used by English union organizer George Howell in 1880. In the United States, the "one person, one vote" principle was invoked in a series of cases involving the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Applying the Equal Protection Clause of the constitution, the Supreme Court ruled that state legislatures needed to have representation that was based on districts containing roughly equal populations, with redistricting as needed after each census. Essentially, it says that each political district, be it City Council, Assembly, State Senate or Congress has to have roughly the same number of citizens residing within that district's borders.

As the population shifts, political lines need to be redrawn. Let's assume that all of those people who moved out of Manhattan during the pandemic shrunk the island's population by 135,000 people. That would mean that Manhattan would lose an Assembly seat. And if somehow—miraculously—all of those people moved to the Bronx, the Bronx would gain an Assembly seat, necessitating new lines to be drawn. Our last census was completed in 2020. The State of New York undertook the process of redrawing the lines, commonly referred to as either redistricting or reapportionment, in 2021. Unfortunately, Republican shenanigans and Democratic overreaching left the accuracy of the Senate and House lines in doubt. A suit was filed in upstate New York and a judge ruled that those lines needed to be redrawn in a more fair manner.

Did you know how many people each office represents? →

Member of Congress

761,000

State Senator

320,000

State Assemblymember

134,700

City Councilmember

173,500

# Early Voting Begins August 13th. *Use it!*

For the last several years, early voting has been legal in New York State. That means for nine days, beginning on August 13, you can go to a polling site in your neighborhood and cast your vote in person for the Tuesday, August 23 primary. It's as safe and secure as voting on Election Day itself, but much more convenient. The early voting sites will be open for two weekends during those nine days, making it as easy as possible to vote!

Early Voting is just like voting on Election Day. Early voters personally scan their completed ballots after privately marking them. Early votes are securely held and then are counted and included in the election night totals on August 23rd. But there are a few differences, the biggest being that if you live in New York City your early voting site will likely not be your regular voting site, although it will be in your neighborhood. As a registered voter, you will be receiving a mailing from the Board of Elections identifying your early voting site. Should you not receive the mailing, you can go to <https://www.voteearlyny.org/about-early-voting/> to look up your early voting site. If you live in New York State, but outside of the five boroughs, you are allowed to vote early at any polling site in the county where you reside.

We expect the turnout for the August primary to be extremely low, perhaps the lowest in New York history. While this is a disturbing fact, it opens an opportunity for organizations like LIUNA to play an



FEEL THE POWER.  
USE THE POWER.  
BE THE POWER.  
**VOTE!**

**EARLY VOTING:  
AUGUST 13 - 21**

**PRIMARY ELECTION:  
AUGUST 23**

outsized role in who gets elected. As a politically organized entity, we have the opportunity and ability to turn out our tens of thousands of members to elect pro-job, pro-labor, pro-Laborers officials. Election Day is on a weekday, and it's not a holiday for the Laborers Union. Early voting provides you, the member, with even more options to participate in the democratic process and elect more officials who will support us, our families and our union. So, get out there and vote early beginning this Saturday, August 13.

## Know before you go.

As a registered voter, you will be receiving a mailing from the Board of Elections identifying your early voting site. Should you not receive the mailing, you can go to



<https://www.voteearlyny.org/about-early-voting/>

*November Early Alert!*

# New York Environment and Climate Change Projects Bond Measure

From time to time there are questions on a ballot that are asked directly of you, the voters. These are usually referred to as a referendum, ballot question, or, as is in this case, a bond measure. The bond measure that will be on your ballot for the November elections will ask whether you approve or oppose a bond issue to finance a vast amount of construction related to water infrastructure.

While a lot of the work created by this bond act will go to the Laborers' Heavy and Highway locals, there will be plenty of work from this for the members of Locals 66, 78, and 79 as well. And the additional work for the other locals only serves to make our union stronger as a whole. Remember, this will appear on the ballot for the November 8th general election, not the August 23 primary! But this is such an important job-creation initiative that we wanted to alert you to it as soon as possible. There will be much more information about this bond measure after the August 23rd primary elections, so be on the lookout for information from your local, the District Council, the NYS Laborers and LIUNA HQ!

 **Vote YES**

on the

**New York Environment and Climate Change Projects Bond Measure**

## About the Bond Measure

The New York Environment and Climate Change Projects Bond Measure would issue \$4.2 billion in bonds for projects classified as climate change mitigation, flood-risk reduction, water infrastructure, and other water related projects. Under the ballot measure, the revenue raised from the bond issue that will create jobs for LIUNA members is as follows (along with some other initiatives):

- Up to \$1.5 billion for air and water pollution reduction projects and related projects;
- At least \$1.1 billion for flood-risk reduction, including relocating and repairing flood-prone infrastructure and roadways, and ecological restoration projects; and
- At least \$650 million for projects related to wastewater, sewage, and septic infrastructure; lead service line replacement; and stormwater runoff reduction.

**YES!**