**State Committee Report**

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Last month the NYS Democratic Committee called for a special meeting to endorse Gillibrand for reelection. Although she was unopposed, the rules require a vote by the body to nominate her for another full term. So we all hauled upstate to Albany to vote unanimously to support her for reelection. As I write this the GOP has nominated to make Chele Chiavacci Farley their nominee to take on the Senator in the November election. Farley is an investment banker with no previous election experience but deep pockets to fund her campaign. The Republicans have not won a statewide since Pataki in 2002 so I don’t see Farley as much of a threat.

Perhaps the only drama was a resolution from the Progressive Caucus (I am a founding member and officer of the group) against State Senator Jeff Klein, whom among other things, is the ring-leader of the GOP-leaning IDC in the state capitol. Our resolution was fairly benign: “…the NYSDC calls upon our Democratic leadership to ensure that JCOPE conducts a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of sexual misconduct by Senator Klein…” which you would think would be a shoo-in, but there was some pushback from the Bronx (of course, since that is where Klein is based). After a hostile pre-emptive attack by Assemblyman Marcos Crespo, Bronx Party Chairman, it passed overwhelmingly. Not a good look in the era of “Me too” for the Governor and party leadership to oppose it, and so they backed the reso.

But overall, this meeting felt pointless, and made further pointless with the fact that we are going to have to meet again in 3 months to vote to endorse the rest of the statewide elected candidates – which will get a bit interesting since Brooklyn City Councilman Jumaane Williams has announced he will challenge incumbent Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul for her post. At the moment, the only Democrat **considering a run against Cuomo is Stephanie Miner, Mayor of Syracuse. Cuomo had once appointed her** co-chair of the State Democratic Committee, but she fell out of favor. She is term-limited as Mayor, and with Zephyr Teachout getting a third of the vote against Cuomo with no money and no name ID, Miner could be a real threat. Cuomo has $26 million in the bank, Miner has a couple of hundred thousand, but she’d be compelling, and what does she have to lose? If she runs and she wins, she is a giant killer.

Switching subjects, I imagine many of you have heard that the MTA plans to close down the entrances of the Central Park West subway at 110th, 86th and 72nd Street for a few months to improve the stations. Much of the improvements appear to be cosmetic, including illuminated handrails. But they will not be installing elevators, which those stations desperately need – there is no ADA accessible station between 59th Street and 125th Street, installing an elevator at those locations, especially since they are going to be out of service for upgrades, seems logical and necessary. Our Assemblyman Danny O’Donnell has been outspoken on this issue, and I encourage you to speak out on it as well. I plan on testifying at CB7’s full board meeting on this matter on Tuesday, March 6th, this newsletter will be delivered after then, so I will have a report at the club meeting next week.