



November 18, 2021

Dear Governor Hochul,

We write as members of the Independent Neighborhood Democrats, the largest Democratic club in the 52nd Assembly District, which consistently has among the highest voter turnout of any Assembly District in the state.

We are increasingly dismayed by Jay Jacobs' ineffective leadership of the Democratic Committee in New York State, and we urge you to recommend that the Party replace him with a chair who will proactively lead the Party.

The failure of the Party to campaign on resolutions 1, 3, and 4 led to a disaster. Democrats fought long and hard to get these resolutions on the ballot to make voting more accessible in New York. Failing to organize a statewide campaign undermined those efforts and will lead to Democrats losing seats and influence throughout the State. This loss came under Jacobs' leadership. Jacobs' response that "no one asked him" for money or to spearhead a campaign is emblematic of his lack of initiative. Especially once it was apparent that the Conservative Party was campaigning on this issue, Jacobs had an obligation to lead the party to ensure that one of our core principles, voting rights, was secured. His failure to do so is reason enough to replace him.

Under Jacobs' lackluster leadership in the Census process, New York State came up 90 individuals short of keeping all of our seats in the House of Representatives. As a result, New York lost a congressional seat, and the representation and federal funding that came with it. Jacobs failed to lead an effective state-wide effort on the Census, as he did on the voting rights resolutions.

Under Jacobs' leadership, Democrats lost the Nassau County Executive seat and lost District Attorney races in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Nassau County is Jacobs' home county. Jacobs is not effectively leading his own county. Jacobs is not effectively leading the State Party.

Finally, we are disturbed by Jacobs' offensive comments comparing India Walton, the 2021 Democratic nominee for Mayor of Buffalo, to David Duke. Beyond his failure to support a duly elected Democratic nominee, Jacobs' remarks have no place in public discourse and we strongly condemn them.

It is time to replace Jay Jacobs as Chair of the State Democratic Committee.

Respectfully,

**Independent Neighborhood Democrats**

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