

President's Column

By Lynn Kotler, CRDC President

Obama's historic nomination has been eclipsed by the rise of Sarah Palin. I receive countless e-mails daily from friends and colleagues with what I've taken to calling "Palin Updates." To the dismay of his wife, my friend Mike, a long-time Democrat, calls to say Palin is "a breath of fresh air." I wonder whether he's talking about Palin or literally Wasilla's air – pre-drilling of course. Conversely, my friend Matt thinks that Palin's star is dimming with, well, every word she's "permitted" to speak. Let's hope he's right.

As a political junkie, I check the polls several times a week. Results from the Quinnipiac Poll, Rasmussen Reports Poll, Research 200, Survey USA Polls, CNN, American Research Group, and Zogby show markedly different results on a weekly basis. This is no surprise. Poll accuracy depends on a number of factors including the size of the poll, who was interviewed, the "honesty factor" of those polled, and how the questions were asked.

Polling inaccuracy is further exaggerated by the fact that cell phone users without landlines (i.e., everyone under 30) are excluded from the polling process. Fortunately, only 11% of Americans believe that political surveys are

accurate and most people pay little or no attention to polls.

Being a political junkie, however, I conducted my own "Lawn Poll" survey. I took a 100-mile bike ride (did I mention I was also a cycling junkie?) through Bergen and Rockland Counties with the sole purpose of counting Obama and McCain lawn signs. (Okay – I also wanted to go for a bike ride.) At the end of the day, my count sounded like the half-time score of a poorly played Knick game: McCain 48 Obama 43. (It would have been McCain 50 Obama 43 but I kicked two over.)

While you will never see the Lawn Poll nestled between the Gallup and Quinnipiac Polls, and you will not find a scientific study of the effects of the political lawn sign, one probably should be done. A theory behind the political lawn sign is that the person placing the sign wishes to motivate others to vote for his/her candidate.

It is assumed that the person who is displaying the sign will also vote for that candidate. (Who knows, maybe they are placed as a means to appease a nasty neighbor!) Lawn signs are a form of home grown advertising. Are they effective – do they convince others to vote for a specific candidate?

GENERAL MEETING

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE AND CHANGE OF VENUE

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23
7:00 P.M.**

Fulton Center Hudson Guild
119 Ninth Avenue

ON THE AGENDA:

Jack Abraham
*Director of NYC
Obama Campaign*

He will be updating us on the campaign and letting us know what we can do to help.

Club will have a discussion of the attempt to change Term Limits

Are they more accurate than traditional polls? I guess we will just have to wait until November 4th to find out.

In the interim – I have an Obama sign in my window. If you'd like a sign – call the Obama campaign. I'm sure they will be more than happy to oblige.

Governor Paterson Opened An Historic Conference To Expand Clean Energy Technologies

In September, New York was host to ten other states and the District of Columbia, in effort to accelerate adoption of Clean Energy Technology which will spur market and industry development. Governor David A. Paterson opened the historic

meeting with representatives from 11 states—New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia—in the first-ever

From State Committee Dispatch

Northeast Mid-Atlantic Governors Clean Energy Forum (NEMAG). This two-day event focused on issues relating to advancement of clean energy technologies in states throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

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Paterson Opens Historic Energy Conference

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The goal of the forum was to identify opportunities for collaboration to accelerate the use of clean energy technologies, which will play a significant role in addressing the region's energy and economic development needs, while also helping to combat global climate change.

"Confronting our growing energy needs efficiently is one of the most critical problems we will face as a state and a nation in the coming decades. New York was proud to host ten other states as we take a first step together toward achievable, renewable, and clean energy solutions," said Governor Paterson. "New York has already taken steps towards these goals, but this issue is too important for states to work independently. Now all 11 states of the Northeast New England Governors Clean Energy Forum can and must work collaboratively for a clean and renewable energy future."

Collectively, the states in the Clean Energy Corridor will seek to develop a significant renewable energy manufacturing sector, establish a trained clean-tech job workforce, and lead the nation in renewable energy development through progressive, forward-looking energy policies.

Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick, co-host of the forum, said: "In the past year, Massachusetts has taken major steps toward creating a clean energy future, by promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy through comprehensive energy reform legislation, passing an advanced biofuels bill, and launching an oceans planning process that will identify sites for wind, wave, and tidal power in our state waters. But the Northeast and New England states have the opportunity to create a huge regional market for clean energy innovations. We owe it to ourselves, and our future, to take on that challenge, and reap the rewards."

Issues on the NEMAG agenda included:

- How the federal government can best support state efforts to advance clean energy, focusing on the potential implications of federal climate change legislation, especially key elements in legislation to accelerate clean energy deployment and innovation;
- State opportunities and joint actions to advance ocean-related energy development;
- Regional collaborative opportunities to expand and ensure the sustainable use of bioenergy as a source of renewable fuels, and to consider and implement where advisable, advancement of lower carbon fuel standards;
- State opportunities and joint actions to increase coordination among the states' renewables policies and

programs, build more robust region-wide markets, and facilitate a larger regional clean energy industry.

Governor Paterson stressed the importance of the review that follows the forum, which will determine the immediate next steps, including a framework for sustaining and supporting on-going collaboration and action among the states on priority issues identified.

CRDC Works To Elect Obama/Biden and A Democratic State Senate

By Andrew Berman, CRDC Executive Committee Member

This November's election presents a perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to completely change the direction of our country and our state. With the election of Barack Obama as President, we can end eight disastrous years of Republican/Bush policies that have ruined our country's economy and our standing in the world and tilted the Supreme Court further in the direction of the radical right, and elect an intelligent, progressive, humane leader who understands issues of social and economic justice.

We also have the chance to win a Democratic majority in the State Senate, which would for the first time in memory put the governor's mansion and both houses of the legislature in Democratic hands. Democratic control of the three arms of state government are absolutely essential if we are to have any hope of passing pro-tenant legislation, legalizing gay marriage, or enacting any one of a broad range of progressive measures which never see the light of day in the Republican-dominated State Senate.

CRDC is working to mobilize our members and the broader Chelsea community to help make this a reality. The Obama campaign is asking New Yorkers to go to Pennsylvania and assist with campaign efforts in that swing state; day trips from Manhattan depart every weekend. They are also looking for assistance with phonebanking to swing states, which can be done at local phonebanks or from your own cell phone. Efforts to win back the State Senate by groups such as Tenants PAC are focused on assisting City Councilmember Joe Addabbo in his efforts to unseat long-time Queens Republican State Senator Serph Maltese.

Don't let this opportunity to turn our state and national government around go by. For specifics about what you can do, check the CRDC website at crdcnyc.org, or e-mail

Obamateam@crdcnyc.org, or go to my.barackobama.com or tenantspac.org.

Obama/McCain Debates Under Way

By Andrew Berman, CRDC Executive Committee Member

Like many of you, I was alternately riveted and repulsed by the first Obama/McCain debate. McCain's combination of prickly condescension, fear-mongering, and bald-faced lies about his and his party's record on a host of economic and foreign policy issues was almost too much to bear at some points. As the debates themselves were preceded by McCain first claiming that he would not participate, and then preemptively launching an ad campaign saying he had won the debate before it even took place, I wondered if I would be able to watch without blowing a gasket.

I was able, and more importantly, so was Obama, who handled McCain's attacks and mistruths with considerable aplomb. I know many who watched and felt Obama should have been more confrontational, and struck back at McCain with equal viciousness. Apparently, however, Obama's respectful grace worked; while pundits called the debate a draw, all polls seemed to show a majority of Americans felt Obama was the victor, with McCain's attacks seemingly coming across as desperate flailing.

In light of the bitterly obvious economic and foreign policy failures of the Bush years (policies which McCain would for the most part like to continue), it seems absurd that there even needs to be a debate. But there does, and it is important that Obama appeal to the all-important 'swing' voters — largely independents who don't necessarily vote on ideology, but who are looking for a post-partisan candidate who they feel they like and can trust. So far, at least, Obama seems to have hit that mark in his first debate.

As I write this, Obama seems to have a fairly consistent five-point lead in nationwide polls. But given the volatile economic and world situation, that could easily change at any time. And Obama, like some other recent Democratic presidential candidates, has consistently underperformed his polling numbers, thanks in some part no doubt to the greater difficulty many democratic voters have had in having their votes count in various parts of the country, and lingering racism which may compel some people to switch their vote in the privacy of a voting booth, regardless of how they know they might otherwise vote. So no matter how Obama does in the debates, or what his poll

numbers are, we need to do everything we can between now and November 4th to be absolutely sure he is the next President of the United States.

Will Of The People? Not When It Comes To Term Limits.

By Luke McAuliffe, CRDC Vice President

Get ready folks. I fear our elected representatives will try and override the will of the people by voting themselves into office for a third term. Never mind that when this issue was put to a referendum two times in the 1990's, the majority of NYC residents voted to limit public officials from holding office for more than two consecutive terms. I can already see the joint press conference on the steps of city hall between the mayor and the incumbent term-limited politicians where they declare:

"NYC is in a financial crisis and we cannot afford a change in leadership. Therefore, we need another term in office because NYC needs officials with experience who know how the system works to get us through these tough economic times."

Well, we got through September 11th just fine and we certainly did not need another 4 years, let alone 4 more minutes of Rudy Giuliani for that matter. Wouldn't you agree, Mr. Bloomberg? However, if the elected officials truly believe this is a righteous endeavor, then I call on them to place this issue before a public referendum so you can sell your ideas to your constituents. Unfortunately, I fear they will go around our collective voices and attempt to vote themselves another term directly through the city council. I hope I am wrong.

I want to remind our members and our elected officials that our club passed a resolution saying that any discussion on term limits should be done by public referendum. So, if a vote on term limits occurs that is not dependent on a public referendum (it will happen before January of 2009), I call on our club to vigorously defend our position by any and all means necessary. Overturning term limits by a city council vote would be thwarting the will of NYC voters (that is not an opinion, it is a fact). Our councilwoman and mayor have promised not to touch term limits, and I want us to hold them accountable for their words.

I am interested in what the candidates for city council in our district think about this and more importantly what they plan on doing should this occur. I certainly have some ideas.

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