

# BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



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www.brooklynqueensnow.org

## BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2014

Chapter meetings take place *the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm*, unless otherwise noted. Inclement weather may force the rescheduling of a chapter meeting, so be sure to RSVP to the number provided. Or call 718 769-0101. Call the numbers below for exact location and directions. Check for Calendar updates on our website: [www.brooklynqueensnow.org](http://www.brooklynqueensnow.org).

- Nov 3 Chapter meeting in Howard Beach. Call 718-843-7978.
- Nov 4 Election Day. Check website for our endorsements.
- Sat, Nov 8 **NOW-NYS Convention** at Brooklyn Boro Hall. 10am-4pm. See inside for details.
- Dec 1 Chapter meeting in Sheepshead Bay. Call 917-923-4657.
- Jan 5 Chapter meeting. Check website for location.



**THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET IT RIGHT**  
**VOTE NO ON PROP 1**

## Prop 1 is WORSE THAN Doing NOTHING

**A FATALLY FLAWED PROPOSAL THAT LOCKS IN PARTISAN CONTROL OF REDISTRICTING FOR DECADES TO COME**

**Deliberately confusing.** It's not an accident that it is confusing and hard to understand! It's designed to hide the fact that it's a sham.

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## PROPOSITION 1

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**Designed to invite costly litigation.** The amendment invites litigation by leaving the contradictory, confusing and archaic redistricting provisions of the constitution virtually intact and making the new language “subject” to them. Fights over the number of senate districts will continue – this “reform” doesn’t change how the number is set.

**A Commission independent in name only.** Sets up a commission of legislative proxies, similar to county redistricting commissions like the ones in Erie and Suffolk Counties that have been abject failures. Special voting rules insure that the Commission can’t take action that isn’t sanctioned by legislative leaders. We’ve seen how this works with JCOPE.

**Blatant political power grab.** Sets up unheard of shifts in rules depending on political control of the houses of the legislature. If this “reform” passes, watch for this trick to show up elsewhere.

**Political parties, not voters, are in control.** The best proponents can say is that both parties now get to run roughshod over the voters, rather than just the party in the majority in either house. In the end, the Legislature gets to draw its own lines. We should be setting up a system where the voters, not the political parties, are in control.

**No ban on prison-based gerrymandering.** The proposed amendment does not ban prison-based gerrymandering, an advance that communities throughout the state fought to achieve. This will allow the Commission and the Legislature to continue to count incarcerated people as if they actually lived at the location of their prison, thus artificially inflating population in that area.

**Mandatory political control of redistricting.** For the first time, our state constitution would require that redistricting be conducted by a commission chosen on political affiliation with a politicized staff, identical to the current staffing. The current system is partisan, but we can change it by statute. Not so this “reform”.

**New criteria encourages gamesmanship.** The “reform” criteria requires that new maps “respect” the current gerrymandered districts (code for incumbent protection), undercutting and contradicting the other criteria. District size can still vary as much as 10%.

Courtesy of No Fake Reform,  
<http://www.noprop1ny.com/>

## NOW Endorsements

Joanne Simon	NYS Assembly District 52
James Kemmerer	NYS Senate, District 22
Grace Meng	US House, District 6
Yvette Clark	US House, District 9
Jerold Nadler	US House, District 10
Domenic Recchia	US House, District 11
Carolyn Maloney	US House, District 12

### *Join the AIN'T I A WOMAN?! Campaign*

Across all industries, people are facing longer work hours and earning less. Simply raising the minimum wage won't resolve the problem. Rampant underemployment and unemployment is the result of the skyrocketing use of mandatory overtime. In fact, one in every three workers has a job that requires it.<sup>1</sup> Long hours not only affect service or low-wage workers but office workers as well, with 62% of high earning professionals working more than 50 hours per week.<sup>1</sup> As some work the equivalent of 2 or 3 jobs, others are jobless or underemployed. Longer work hours means less jobs and lower wages for all. Increasing the minimum wage alone will not resolve society's inequality if we do not address long work hours. Simply put, *mandatory overtime* exacerbates income inequality and makes us poor.

Three years ago, workers at **Pactiv**, a subsidiary of Reynolds Group Holdings, organized to confront and fight against the exploitation they faced at the plastic packaging factory. Pactiv retaliated against them by laying-off 60% of the packers and forced the remaining 40% of the mostly women workforce to do 100% of the work.

*“I worked two or three machines, and then when they fired the others, I started working five machines. My body started to deteriorate. I told [the manager] my body was not doing well. My back was hurting, I...was still forced to do overtime.”*

- Mei Rong Chi, former Pactiv worker.

While Pactiv increased the wage rate by 15% for the remaining packers, their workload increased over 100% and they were forced to work overtime. The Pactiv workers saw that, to win, they would need to unite with all workers around the common goal of ending mandatory overtime.

Women bear the brunt of the work, recognized and unrecognized, in our society. In the *Ain't I a Woman?! Campaign*, Pactiv women workers are leading the fight for all working people and our families. By concretely exposing how mandatory overtime is destroying working conditions and livelihoods, they point out to us

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**AIN'T I A WOMAN?! Campaign -from Page 2-**

the solution and the direction forward.

*“After working as an executive assistant for 18 years, I was laid off so that my company could force extra work on fewer workers. Since then, it’s been impossible to find a job with a 40-hour work week,”* says Lea Geronimo.

Pactiv workers are being joined by students, office workers, caregivers, and many other workers to eliminate mandatory overtime. Will you too join this campaign at this critical moment so we can all work together to build a movement against income inequality and for justice for all working people?

Contact us at: (212)358-0295, [aiwcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:aiwcampaign@gmail.com)  
[www.aintiawoman.org](http://www.aintiawoman.org), [BoycottReynolds.org](http://BoycottReynolds.org)

**HELP PREVENT THE SENATE FROM ACHIEVING A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY**

NOW PAC needs phoners to contact NOW members in North Carolina and New Hampshire. Also, an independent feminist campaign to defeat Texas anti-women candidate Gregg Abbott by electing **Wendy Davis** for governor can use help making calls.

Email Pat Reuss at [patreuss@gmail.com](mailto:patreuss@gmail.com) with “send me a list” and include your contact information or call her at 703-978-0968. We can prove the doom and gloom politics wrong by getting out the feminist/progressive vote and WINNING but everyone has to pitch in.

**REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL BOARD**

-Shirley Ranz

Having been elected to the board of National NOW for a 2-year term, I recently attended my first board meeting in Washington, DC, which lasted 3 days. At this past June’s National Conference the board was assigned the task of proposing major structural changes in how the organization operates, with the goal of making it more efficient, effective, and financially solvent.

We discussed what has worked and what hasn’t, and the need for change. Such issues as who gets to vote in elections (online voting by all qualified members vs delegate voting), proxy voting, should the number of board members be determined by region or by membership numbers, restricting location of future National conferences to hub cities, and whether to change how the annual dues are apportioned to the state and local chapters.

We heard from the leaders of the YMCA and AAUW, whose organizations have undergone substantial structural changes with positive results.

Many of these changes would require amending the Bylaws, which must be done at a national conference. Next summer’s National Conference will take place in New Orleans, LA and will in part be devoted to these issues.

In between these face-to-face meetings board members will continue to engage in online discussions, conference calls and webinars.

**DONATE TO BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW WITHOUT SPENDING A PENNY!**

**TD Bank** will make an annual contribution to the chapter based on the activity of all participating members’ TD Bank accounts. Eligible accounts include: Checking - Business & Consumer, Savings, Money Market, Certificate of Deposit, and Retirement.

**Checking Accounts**

\$50 for every new checking account • \$10 for every existing checking account

**Savings Accounts or CDs**

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**Membership Program**. Our bank code is **AG220**.

If you don't already have an account, open one! In this way you'll be helping the chapter continue it's work.

**Finally in BROOKLYN!**

**NOW - NYS Convention:  
Equality, Power, Justice!  
Saturday, November 8, 2014,  
10 am - 4 pm  
Brooklyn Borough Hall**

Special guest: **Zephyr Teachout**,  
Law Professor and former NYS  
Gubernatorial Candidate

Here’s your opportunity to meet fellow feminists from all over the state, learn the latest from leaders of our movement, and choose the next NOW-NYS president (it’s a contested election) To get more info & register, go to [www.nownys.org](http://www.nownys.org).

ELDER LAW AND GUARDIANSHIPS

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**PRO-CHOICE IN QUEENS**

*Clinic Escorts Needed!*

On a typical Saturday at **CHOICES**, a women's health clinic in Queens, anti-choice protesters outnumber pro-choice volunteers 5 to 1. Escorts provide a buffer zone from the lies and harassment coming from the anti's.

Join us on Saturday mornings from 7-11am at **CHOICES** in Jamaica, Queens. Located at 147-32 Jamaica Ave, the clinic is close to the E, J, Z and LIRR trains.

***The Congressional voting Record for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress—CVR***, for short—includes legislators' votes or co-sponsorship on legislation to strengthen our nation's equal pay laws, raise the minimum wage, protect LGBT workers from discrimination, re-open the federal government, and other critical issues. Look up the details of your elected officials' records and let your friends and community know how they're doing on women's issues at <http://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/CVR-2013-14.pdf>

**National Organization for Women  
Brooklyn-Queens Chapter  
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Brooklyn, NY 11235**

**Address Service Requested**

From former Comptroller John Liu



Thank you to NOW, the  
National Organization for Women  
Brooklyn-Queens Chapter  
for the important work you do to  
advance civil rights.