

Opinion

Burgos, Ogrodnek, and Zwiebel offer an inspiring vision for Irvington

To the Editor:

Democracy, as the U.N. General Assembly recognized in its resolution adopting Sept. 15 as the International Day of Democracy, is “a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people.” While democratic institutions are currently under attack by Republicans nationwide, democracy thrives here in Irvington.

Earlier this year, the Irvington Democratic Committee hosted a convention, open to all Irvington Democrats, to endorse one candidate for Irvington village mayor and two for Irvington village trustees. The field was

contested, with two mayoral candidates and three trustee candidates on voters’ ballots. Hundreds of Irvington Democrats participated in this democratic process, organized by numerous volunteers (including myself), through early voting and voting on convention night. Strong majorities backed Arlene Burgos for mayor, Larry Ogrodnek, and David Zwiebel for trustees.

Subsequently, as allowed by the committee’s bylaws to challenge the results, no candidates submitted Democratic petitions challenging the candidates after their convention victory. As a result, Arlene, Larry,

and David are the official Democratic nominees for mayor and trustees.

In addition to receiving the endorsement of the Irvington Democratic Committee, Arlene, Larry, and David have been endorsed by numerous elected officials at all levels of government. These include all current Irvington village trustees, County Legislator David Imamura, NYS Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Congressman George Latimer. Former Irvington Mayor Nikki Coddington and former Congressman Mondaire Jones also

endorse them.

Now, the broader Irvington voting population gets to know these qualified candidates as they attend meet-and-greets and local events, and canvass neighborhoods to talk with Irvington voters face-to-face. I will vote for these exemplary leaders — Arlene, Larry, and David — whose inspiring vision deeply resonates with our community’s voters.

I urge all Irvington voters to vote on Nov. 4 to uphold the values of democracy.

Juliette Hartel

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