

NEW YORK PARTY MOBILIZER



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July 28, 1988

ELECTORAL OLYMPICS

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE ISSUED FRIDAY BY GUS HALL, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, ON THE NEW YORK STATE ELECTIONS.

Top athletes must get on the track in the Olympics to be able to compete and break records. And the names of good candidates must appear on the ballot to be able to run a meaningful campaign.

We all know that independent, progressive and Communist candidates must overcome serious handicaps to get on the ballot. Just as great athletes need the support of many people, including coaches and trainers, to make it to the Olympics, independent and Communist candidates can make it to the electoral track, can get their names on the ballot, only if they get the support of people -- a lot of people.

New York has one of the most undemocratic electoral systems. It will take 40,000 signatures on nominating petitions to make it possible for Charlene Mitchell to run for U.S. Senate. It is unthinkable that we would permit Sen. Daniel Moynihan to run for re-election without a serious challenge to his reactionary positions. And it would be totally irresponsible to let the "thug" Mario Biaggi run without a real challenge by Mike Zagarell.

There is only one way to guarantee that Mitchell's and Zagarell's names will be on the ballot -- by hard work collecting signatures. Best wishes, good intentions and even applause will not do it.

This is a challenge that cannot be postponed. Next month will be too late. After that self-criticism will not correct the mistake. We can only correct it now by going out to collect signatures.

We have excellent candidates, but like the Olympic athletes they do not automatically get to the track. Use your spare time, evenings, lunch hours, Saturdays, Sundays. Take days off, use your sick days or vacation days. Our candidates can compete and win only if we guarantee that they get on the track in the electoral Olympics.

SPECIAL PARTY ACTIVIST MEETING ON PETITION DRIVE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3 -- 6:30 P.M. -- 2ND FLOOR
ALL PARTY COMRADES INVITED -- STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
CLUB CHAIRS, CLUB EXECUTIVE MEMBERS URGED TO ATTEND
ALL NEW YORK CITY CLUBS MUST BE REPRESENTED

Dear Comrades:

As of this writing, (July 27) we have 9,000 signatures for Charlene Mitchell's campaign for ballot status and 1400 for the Zagarell candidacy. The good news is that plans and activities of clubs and other campaign supporters has stepped up considerably in the last few days. The bad news is that we are still way behind where we want and need to be to have a successful campaign.

The experiences remain constant. When we go out, we get a better, more enthusiastic response than any recent experience. The problem is that we are not going out enough to do the job. As Comrade Gus Hall says, "hard work collecting signatures" is the only way to do it. As we've said previously, each comrade needs to give two evenings and serious time on Saturday to make this work.

Some specifics:

. This weekend and next, we wish to have Saturdays be major mobilization days. Two Hundred supporters giving five hours each will give us 10,000 signatures each Saturday and put us over the top early.

. Industrial, teachers, Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx -- we wish to petition in the 19th C.D.

. There is a daily team of petitioners in the Bronx -- feel free to join them:

Zagarell Campaign
2918 Holland Ave
Bronx, NY
212-231-7622

. Teachers, especially are urged to join this daily team.

. Please turn in your signatures as soon as you have them.

. If you collect, you need to come down to 23rd St. immediately and fill out a witness form. We'd like comrades to try to take personal days from work in order to help petition.

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