October 8, 2026 VID General Meeting Minutes

President Liz Cohen opened the meeting with a discussion on the Vote Blue buses and their availability.

Nat Johnson reported for the Environmental Committee. He opened by speaking on the movement to stop the Constitution Pipeline, developed by the Williams Company and canceled in 2016 due to failures in water quality certifications. From September 19 to October 4, the Women's Water Walk, consisting of Native women and local women, marched for 108 miles to oppose the Pipeline. New York has added nearly $1B into programs aimed at lowering energy costs, expanding renewable power and helping communities respond to climate change. Gothamist News reports that NYC is considering expanding the Cannonsville Reservoir upstate, first proposed in the 1980s, in response to drought.

A report issued by 350.org reveals that Türkiye and Australia, the countries leading the COP31 climate summit, are connected by a coal supply chain, responsible for more than 75 million tons of CO2 emissions since the Paris Agreement. These two countries are among the very few industrialized countries without a coal phaseout date. Thirty-six Democratic state legislators urged the Governor to reject the plan for a proposed 8.4 gigawatt nuclear expansion, citing high costs, long construction timelines, and taxpayer risk.

Congress is considering two bills that would weaken recyclability standards, make it more confusing for consumers, and undermine efforts to set stronger standards and improve our recycling system. You are urged to call on your elected leaders to vote NO on the RMAA and PACT acts now. The NYS Legislature unanimously moved a bill to keep strong limits on five PFAs, chemicals that the Trump administration rolled back sanctions on earlier this year. Now it needs the Governor's signature, and you are urged to tell her to protect our drinking water Council member Carl Wilson introduced the NYC Council Bill Int. 1130-2026 focused on regulating how Artificial Intelligence models are advertised in NYC. It would require any advertisement that promotes an AI model to disclose whether it has undergone validation by a third party. It would also prohibit such advertisement from including any false or misleading statement regarding the safety of an AI model, subject to a civil penalty up to $25,000.

Arthur Schwartz, District Leader, gave his report. He has been DL for 30 years and said VID has a generational crisis. In 2008 we endorsed Hillary instead of Obama. In 2016 we endorsed Hillary over Bernie Sanders. We endorsed Hochul over Jumaane, and we didn't support Antonio Delgado when he was considering running against Hochul. We now have a chance to endorse Pete Buttigieg or AOC—someone really progressive.

Recording Secretary Kathy Slawinski suggested inviting journalist Veronica Irwin to speak on AI at a future meeting. The Executive Committee will discuss it.

Melissa Carty hosted a discussion of the busing schedule and the candidates and their chances.

Tony Hoffmann introduced three women from the League of Women Voters, Kai Rosenthal, Ann Cheng, for the Commission on Government Efficiency, and Slava Brodsky, to discuss the pros and cons of the five ballot proposals. They discussed each in detail, with recommendations, and fielded questions. After discussion, a vote was taken, and 12 voted not to endorse, with eight for a recommendation to vote no on the proposals.

David Siffert, nominated Assembly member, read a letter expressing support for A101/S10632, the Voluntary Intoxication Exclusion Bill to Close the Dangerous Loophole in New York Sexual Assault Law, proposed by Grace Lee. He disagreed with the letter, stating that there is no difference between voluntary and involuntary intoxication in the law, and passing this legislation would leave a dangerous loophole where if a couple has sex and the man has a drink before, he can accuse the woman of rape. (There is no time pressure on this as the legislature is currently not in session.)

David has no opponent, but stressed that he still has campaign expenses, so he urged people to please donate. He also urged discussion on AI.
A
discussion followed on Grace Lee's bill, and it was agreed it would go to the Executive Committee for further discussion.

Under New Business:

- Jonathan Geballe said he is working on election protection and recruiting poll monitors. There are already a thousand people, but we need more. If you know anyone available for this, please notify Jonathan.

Liz notified us that someone had been shot by ICE in the Bronx.

The meeting was adjourned.