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The Week That Was

05-25-18

1. No, No, Nixon

Our Spin:

Sometimes it just doesn't work out when you decide to show for a party that you weren't invited to. Announced candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, Cynthia Nixon, had that experience this week. Apparently not many of her friends decided to attend either. In fact, less than 5% of the attendees at the state Democratic Convention were willing to offer any sort of welcome to the would-be candidate. She took the snub in stride and now plans to spend her summer planning her own party for November.

The Story:

Governor Andrew Cuomo called in past Democratic Party stalwarts Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden to endorse him, as he received the overwhelming support of delegates at the state Democratic Convention on Long Island Thursday.

The incumbent governor, who faces a challenge from the left by actress Cynthia Nixon, looked like the odds-on favorite, winning more than 95% of the party members' votes.

Cuomo, in his speech, listed his accomplishments saying his efforts to pass marriage equality, raise the minimum wage and enact gun control should be a model for the nation. The governor, who is seeking a third term in office, focused much of his address on Washington, which he says is "deaf, dumb and blind," and he says he's best equipped to fight what he says are the disastrous policies of President Donald Trump and the Republican led Congress.

He also vowed to elect more Democrats to the state Senate and the House of Representatives.

Cuomo's nomination was seconded by his mother, former New York First Lady Matilda Cuomo. A short chant of "four more years," followed.

Nixon failed to get anywhere near the 25% she needed to guarantee her a spot on the primary ballot. She said she will now put in the shoe leather to gather thousands of petition signatures across the state to get her name on the ballot.

"I'm here because I think it's important that at a Democratic convention there be at least one Democrat running for governor," she said, accusing Cuomo of governing like a Republican. "I'm not a protest candidate. I'm a viable candidate who is really running hard for the Democratic nomination, and that's why I'm here, to say this is my party, too. I'm not afraid, and I'm here. You can't shut me out."

[NY Daily News](#)

2. Welcome to New York, Mr. Byford

Our Spin:

New York City Transit President Andy Byford unveiled his proposal to transform New York City's subways and bus network this week and received resounding support from just about everyone...except the guy responsible for coming up with the \$19 billion to fund the proposal. Governor Cuomo has contested his

responsibility of funding the MTA and has again insisted that Mayor de Blasio pass the hat and NYC kick in their fair share. SPOILER ALERT – de Blasio has declined to provide any funding.

The Story:

The MTA revealed a sweeping proposal on Wednesday to overhaul New York City's subway and improve the broader transit system. The plan is expected to cost more than \$19 billion, and goes far beyond the emergency repair plan that was unveiled last summer after the subway fell into crisis.

NYC Transit President Andy Byford unveiled his "wide-ranging and ambitious" Fast Forward Plan with more than a little praise from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board. The proposal calls for many immediate improvements and a timeline for putting in modern signals across five subway lines serving 3 million daily riders.

The process would be long and painful. Disruptions will force riders to navigate constant night and weekend closures while the transit agency installs new signal technology, called Communications-based Train Control.

The signal system is blamed for many of the delays that test straphangers' patience, but under the plan, five lines that carry half of the subway's ridership would be completed in just five years.

The subway system moves millions of commuters around the city every single day and is a 24/7 operation, but it is also aging and desperately in need of improvements. The problem is that there's no way to offer long-term upgrades without short-term pain.

The signal work would require some stations to be closed on nights and weekends, but Mr. Byford decided against closing full lines because it would be too difficult on busy routes like the Lexington Avenue line in Manhattan, one person said. The proposal will also cover improvements to buses and paratransit services and could depend on changes to labor and procurement rules so that the work could be done more quickly.

[The New York Times](#)

3. Manny who?

Our Spin:

Rookie candidate Manny Alicandro did not walk away from the New York Republican State Convention bitter this week despite not receiving the outcome he was hoping for.

Instead, the Wall Street lawyer said it was a good experience for him, and he plans to explore other runs for office in the future. Better luck next time Manny!

The Story:

It was certainly an educational week for New York City lawyer Manny Alicandro at the state Republican Convention. The rookie candidate went to the convention hoping to be named the GOP designee for attorney general, something that seemed like a good possibility just a few weeks ago.

At that time, Democratic AG Eric Schneiderman resigned, and everything changed for Alicandro, who saw his clear shot to the nomination obscured when multiple candidates entered the race for the statewide post. By Tuesday, it seemed pretty clear Republicans were either going to choose New York City lawyer Keith Wofford, (the ultimate designee), or former Pataki administration aide Joe Holland.

Some members of the party were even openly questioning whether Alicandro had been a resident of New York for the five years required to hold a statewide office, even though he insisted repeatedly that he had lived here for a decade. On Wednesday morning, Alicandro said the residency questions were all cleared up, and in his opinion were just a tactic to pressure him out of the race.

If that was the case, then the problem was solved because he had been convinced that running for comptroller made more sense than taking on a crowded AG field in which party leaders so clearly favored other candidates. The switch didn't work out, however, as investment banker Jonathan Trichter, a registered Democrat who only recently decided to switch his enrollment to join the GOP, convinced enough Republicans with reservations about his political bona fides that he was indeed the right candidate to take on the Democratic incumbent, state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

"I learned the votes weren't there for me, and I just didn't want to go through the whole process, and just really, party unity," Alicandro later explained. "I think it just made sense to support Jonathan, and just withdraw my nomination.

[NY Daily News](#)

