



FRANZ S. LEICHTER  
28<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

May 7, 1986

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Dear Friend:

In case you missed the Op-Ed piece that Councilman Michels and I wrote on the successful effort to defeat the LaRouche forces at the polls in Northern Manhattan, I have reprinted it on the reverse of this letter.

As you have probably seen from the press, we are making decided headway in the effort to limit campaign contributions. Early last month, with Councilmember Ruth Messinger, I sponsored a press conference in which we announced support for campaign financing by former Mayors Beame and Lindsay, the Citizens Union, City Club, Common Cause, League of Women Voters, and numerous labor, political and civic leaders.

Last week the Sovern Commission which had been set up jointly by Governor Cuomo and Mayor Koch came out with far-reaching proposals for campaign financing reform, including the \$1,000 contribution limitation which I have been working for.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Franz".

Franz S. Leichter

FSL/pg

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1986

# How New Yorkers Defeated LaRouche

The startling victory in the Illinois Democratic primary of candidates associated with Lyndon LaRouche's neo-Nazi organization has generated the question, "How could it have happened?" It would be a mistake to consider the victory a freak event that cannot be repeated. In fact, LaRouche adherents have won large vote totals in numerous races around the country since 1982.

Our northern Manhattan community, Washington Heights and Inwood, faced a determined effort in 1983 by LaRouche candidates to win control of the local school board, the local Democratic Party and the Area Policy Board (which recommends allocations of antipoverty monies). We resoundingly defeated them in all three elections within eight months.

Our experience is that Mr. LaRouche commands numerous volunteers who work with robot-like persistence in unswerving devotion to him and his conspiracy theories. His candidates are well-financed and will say and do almost anything to win, including smearing opponents with wild charges. On one occasion, LaRouche followers burst into our offices and abused staff workers. As the Democrats in Illinois learned, it is an extremely serious mistake to laugh off the group as right-wing nuts not worthy of campaigning against.

School board elections would seem easy to win because nine posts are available, the election is nonpartisan and by proportional representation, and it historically attracts very few voters. In 1983, the LaRouche organization was known because of a visible effort in the 1981 mayoralty primary and for having fielded a candidate who got 15 percent of the primary vote against Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan in 1982. While a large number of LaRouche followers lived in our area, they had maintained a fairly low profile.

By Stanley E. Michels  
and Franz S. Leichter

In 1983, the organization made an all-out effort to win control of the District 6 school board. It spent substantial sums promoting candidates and distributing campaign literature with facile slogans for "classical education," "Star Wars" weapons and saving the economy from depression. It was apparent to all who listened and read carefully that the real agenda was an anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic and anti-minority ideology designed to gain influence and ultimately political power for Mr. LaRouche.

With other elected officials from the area, especially Assemblymen Brian Murtaugh and Herman D. Farrell Jr., we mobilized virtually the entire community, not just the Democrats. We educated voters about what Mr. LaRouche really stands for. We identified all the LaRouche candidates in order to steer voters away from them. We convinced voters who usually ignore school board elections that something crucial was at stake.

In short, we made Mr. LaRouche the issue. Using findings of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, A.F.L.-C.I.O. and the writer Dennis King, an expert on Mr. LaRouche — that the LaRouche group is extremist and anti-Semitic — we challenged LaRouche candidates at meetings, outside subway stations and on the streets. With the support of District Council 37 (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Em-

ployees) and the United Federation of Teachers, which otherwise were backing opposing slates, we flooded the community with leaflets, held numerous public meetings and sent volunteers door-to-door. Parents groups, fraternal organizations and block associations organized. Priests, rabbis and Protestant ministers supported this effort.

On election day, almost 15,000 turned out — some voters in wheelchairs and with walkers. Volunteers and local elected officials competed outside every polling place with LaRouche minions that had been imported from around the country. The highest vote any LaRouche candidate received was a mere 340.

Boastered by this victory, the community easily fended off LaRouche attempts to capture Democratic district leadership races and seats on the antipoverty board. In 1984, Mr. LaRouche began to move his followers out of our neighborhood, to try to fool voters elsewhere. Unfortunately, he succeeded in Illinois. As we learned in Washington Heights and Inwood, the only way to deal with Mr. LaRouche is to relentlessly expose him. □

Stanley E. Michels is a City Council member and Franz S. Leichter is a state senator.

In three  
Manhattan  
contests