

To: New York State Senate Committee on Elections

From: Damiano F. Camporeale (Resident of Brooklyn, NY – Independent)

**RE: Independents Right to Vote in Primary Elections**

Good Day,

While I am unable to recite this in person, I feel nevertheless compelled to write this letter regarding the lack of voting rights granted to NY State Citizens who are labeled as Independents.

As a 30-plus year NYC resident, now living in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, it continues to boggle my mind that the most liberal state in the country is now one of 9 states who do not grant Primary voting rights to Independents. It has never been explained nor is there any sort of satisfactory explanation for why tax-paying residents of this state need to be categorized as Democrats or Republicans. This restriction is antiquated and smacks of a desire to force NY State Citizens to align with one of two parties, or else be deemed a non-entity in the eyes of the state.

Independents account for millions of lost votes in Primary elections – lost because Independents are literally, and inexplicably, prohibited from voting. They are also prohibited from working at Primary polls, which also deprives Independents of an employment opportunity.

I ask this committee and every of other facet of the state government that has jurisdiction in this matter to care less about two-party categories and more about the interested tax-paying citizens of this state who care enough about elections to vote in Primaries, be they mayoral, gubernatorial or presidential.

This is 2021, and a citizen being a self-proclaimed Independent should not be relegated to pariah status.

Please undue this restriction so that Independents will be granted every right that is awarded to Democrats and Republicans.

This should not be considered a special request – but a right that has been too long withheld.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Damiano F. Camporeale**

damiano\_daniel@yahoo.com