

Arjuna Asad
Bronx

I am writing to ask the Commission to put open primaries on the ballot in November and let the voters decide if they support opening the primaries to independent voters.

My name is Arjuna Asad and I live in the Bronx. I am a city employee with the Administration for Children's Services for 35 years, and did military service for 8 years.

I support opening the primaries because I want to be involved in selecting the candidates who will be governing this city. Often, I see primary candidates that I would have liked to vote for, but because of being an independent I wasn't able to.

I don't want to commit to either party. I care about what a person is bringing to the table. I don't just vote automatically for a candidate because of the party designation. I'm not 100% either way, Republican or Democrat. I work in detention, so I don't support some of the positions of the Democrats and I think the Republican Party has become too polarizing.

If we had a truly open primary, I think a lot more people would register to vote. Being in the military, I realize that people fought for the right for us to participate. So, I feel obligated to vote and I want to exercise my right to the fullest extent, especially in the primaries that are so critical.

Personally, I think there are more independent voters than in either the Democratic or Republican parties. Independents are a huge untapped resource. Sometimes I think the major parties like it that way. They don't want to include independents because we are not going to listen to the nonsense. We're informed. I think independents may have more critical skills and will actually listen carefully to what candidates are saying.

I hope the Commission will pursue open primaries and will let me vote for this much needed reform in November. It's the democratic and American way to go.