

Alice Rydel
Manhattan

My name is Alice Rydel and I've been a resident in NYC for 50+ years now. I went to the commission's public hearing scheduled to start at 5pm this evening at Riverside Church in order to urge the commission to put open primaries on the ballot for the general election, but the event started late, they announced they were taking expert opinions re the city budget, then prioritizing statements regarding the city's infrastructure followed by people who wanted to speak on other topics and definitely ending at 8pm. Attendees were told they can submit online if they were not able to get to them, so that's what I'm doing.

I have never been able to vote in the primaries because I'm an independent. I'm active with the Open Primaries and Let Us Vote organizations & glad there are a number of organizations working towards changing this.

I recently volunteered to call independent voters in New Mexico and congratulate them on finally getting semi-open primary legislation passed and to remind them to vote because there wasn't much local notification that they could now do so. I've got to admit I felt a little jealous of their victory!

I am disappointed to see your preliminary report does not include anything about putting opening the primaries on the ballot and urge you to include it in your final report. Independent voters are the 2nd largest voting bloc in NYC. Our tax dollars go towards running the elections yet we can't participate. 85% of the major cities in the country have some form of open primaries. I love NYC -- it's creativity and forward-thinking in so many ways yet when it comes to the election process, it's way behind the times and this has got to change. I again urge you to put open primaries on the ballot this fall.

If any candidate in the upcoming election, if any elected official came out openly in support of open primaries, they would get my support and I'm sure along with the million-plus independents and a good percentage of people frustrated with the two parties.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.