

Juliana Francisco

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My name is Juliana Francisco and I am an independent voter living in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

In addition to the work this Commission is doing on government efficiency, I believe it is critically important for you to focus on opening the primaries in NYC to independent voters.

I have been an independent my whole voting life. I never felt the focus of the parties matched the needs of my family. My family, like so many families in our city, has faced eviction, been through the shelter system, lost our home, and find it increasingly difficult to make a life here.

It is upsetting every year to me, to not be able to vote in the primaries. I felt that especially this year. I really wanted to vote! I hate the experience of waiting for a decision to be made, a decision where I do not have a voice. I have to wait to see what other people do, because I can't participate as an independent. And we all know that after the primary, the race is over.

I want to vote. It is terrible to be motivated to do something and then not being allowed to do it.

I am not alone – 56% of Gen Z voters are now independent.

What is our city doing here? Do we want people to vote? I don't think so. This system is set up to not let 1.2 million of us participate. But we are citizens, we pay taxes, we love our city and want to have a voice.

I believe this Commission should put this issue before all the voters this November. My hope is that they would support letting all NYC voters have the right to vote in our primaries.