

Thank you for agreeing to complete the South Central Brooklyn United for Progress District Leader AD51 candidate questionnaire. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with how our endorsement process works - a candidate must receive $\frac{2}{3}$ of the ranked choice vote in order to win our endorsement. [More details here.](#)

Your answers to these questions will be made available to the public on our website, <http://scbkunitedforprogress.org/>, and will be promoted on our Facebook page and twitter feed.

Answers are due 24 hours prior to your scheduled interview time if you want to be considered for endorsement!

Campaign Information

What is your name?

Jacqui Painter

What are your preferred pronouns?

She/her

What office are you running for?

Female State Committee Member for Assembly District 51

Who is the point of contact for your campaign and what is the best way to get in touch with them?

Jacqui, myself, or Carlos Calzadilla the campaign manager. info@painterforbk.com

What is your campaign email?

info@painterforbk.com

What is your campaign website?

www.painterforbk.com

Is your campaign on social media? If so, what platform(s) and what are the names?

Facebook: [facebook.com/painterforbk](https://www.facebook.com/painterforbk)

Instagram: [@jacquipainter](https://www.instagram.com/jacquipainter)

Twitter: [@jacqui.painter](https://twitter.com/jacqui.painter)

Campaign Issues

What do you see as the role of district leader? What would you bring to that role? What are/or would be your priorities as a District Leader?

One of the most important roles of a District Leader is to be the community's link to the democratic process and party. To be someone that engages the community in the voting process with transparency on things like information on County Committee, ballot initiatives, and poll working. Not just electing judges and assigning poll workers, but also educating your constituents about the process and role as well.

Another very important task of our District Leaders is to elect the Executive Committee Chair. Most recently we saw an example of just how important this is with the derogatory remarks made to District Leader Maritza Davila by other members during an executive session where the party Chair was trying to further stifle democratic participation. This is an example of failed leadership, and a disgrace to the "unity" that the Chair frequently references.

The District Leader should work with other elected officials on neighborhood initiatives and issues, and help keep both constituents and community leaders informed.

What do you see as the role of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, both currently and in the future? How does County Committee and the Democratic clubs fit into this?

The Brooklyn Democratic Party is one of the biggest in the country with 1.2 million registered democrats. Our county party has an untapped potential to be the leader of progress and social justice in the entire country. Our county committee has potential to be an effective organizing force of the Brooklyn Democratic party to drive the party and give voices to our communities. Unfortunately the leadership at the party currently is trying to reduce their power. I believe we need more county committee meetings and reduce proxy voting so we have a more engaged membership.

It is unbelievable that a party organization of this magnitude would have no party platform and not stand for anything. This has to change. One of the reasons that actually led me to run for District Leader is when the ballot propositions expanding voting rights failed to pass this year. This is something I organized with local clubs like NKD, LID, and BYD in years past. Not only would these reforms transformed voting rights in the entire state, but especially been integral in expanding our democracy in underserved neighborhoods like mine. It is truly the fault of the Brooklyn Democratic Party for not campaigning for them. Brooklyn Democrats should be fighters for voting rights in Brooklyn just as much as they are for Georgia.

I believe the Brooklyn Democratic Party should have a platform and opinion on things that matter to Brooklyn Democrats. This allows for District Leaders and County Committee members to advocate for these issues within the state party and with local elected officials. An example of this would be advocating for housing. As a borough

home to one of the highest numbers of tenants, housing is consistently one of the biggest issues our fellow Brooklynites face. AD 51 is home to a large number of Section 8 housing, and Brooklyn's largest NYCHA, the Red Hook Houses. I firmly believe housing is a human right and the party should mobilize to ensure families don't get evicted from their homes and seniors thrown to the streets for the profit of the greedy real estate industry.

The Democratic Party also has a huge opportunity right now to fight for immigrant rights with the passing of Intro 1867, a bill for non-citizen immigrants to vote in municipal elections and register as members of political parties. This was a huge victory for both voting rights and immigrant rights, bringing around 800,000 new eligible voters. The Brooklyn Democratic party must work to register and engage these new voters to ensure this hard earned right is exercised and a new immigrant electorate is fully represented in our elections. This should be the first step for the party to continue to fight for immigrant issues that matter to voters.

Are there any things the Brooklyn Democratic Party can do to be more transparent and accessible to the average Democrat?

As voters we are continually let down with a lack of transparency and basic voter education by the Brooklyn Democratic Party leadership. I'm fighting for full transparency with everything to do with the democratic process, including reducing the amount of proxy votes, bring transparency and open process to the selection of judges, creating a fair system for poll worker positions, and working towards a party platform that centers working families and fights for a better borough for everyone.

My running mate Julio Peña III has done a fantastic job in advocating and fighting to reform the rules that govern the democratic party. I will steadfastly work alongside Julio in that platform issue to ensure that the party is transparent and truly democratic.

Are there any rules changes the Brooklyn Democratic Party made in the last two years that you do not agree with / would like to change (reducing the number of yearly county committee meetings, limiting the scope and the subject of resolutions, automatically proxying votes to district leaders, etc.)?

I strongly believe we need to fix our broken electoral system to ensure no one is denied their right to vote. Our county party needs a platform in order to be a real voice for working people in the borough and should enact an agenda that fights injustice and holds its electeds accountable to. Growing up in a community where voter suppression is rampant, ensuring that everyone can participate in Democracy is what drives a lot of my activism already.

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How should the Democratic party handle party members that do something to harm the party or its name (e.g., What if a party member runs for election as a Democrat but does not caucus with them once elected? What if a party member runs on both the Democratic and Republican lines)?

I believe that the Brooklyn Democratic Party needs to hold democrats accountable to democratic voters. This means that if an elected official receives the democratic nomination and starts working against the party and its values there should be consequences. These consequences can come from a censure vote in the county committee and the denial of funds and resources from the party. We should ban any democrat from running on the Republican party line.

What do you think about the current process by which judges are chosen to receive the Democratic nomination and how, if at all, should it be changed?

Complete transparency is something that both myself and my running mate District Leader Julio Peña III and I are very focused on. We need full transparency on the judge process, poll working, and County structure. I plan on continuing the work that Julio has done with more judicial forums, and expand the frequency and accessibility of them. Information on both the process and the judicial candidates will also be listed publicly on my website, social media, e-mail newsletters, and available to the public during office hours and events.

What do you think about the current process for determining the Democratic nominee in special elections for state-level races and how, if at all, should it be changed?

I think that the current process is not transparent and democratic enough. This results in the county leadership picking their candidate and not giving a fair chance to other democratic candidates. We should eliminate proxy voting for the nomination and have several mandatory public forums that are properly advertised so that county committee members and community members know who is running.

Do you have any suggestions to improve how poll workers and Board of Elections staff are hired and used?

I believe we need to remove political appointments from commissioners and staff and establish a transparent appointment process. I will also push for more and better quality trainings and language accesabilty for all poll workers.

How independent should district leaders be from other elected officials? Should district leaders be allowed to hold another elected position? Why or why not?

There should be safeguards to ensure the integrity of the party. It depends on the individual and how they have worked in the past. If they take their role seriously and serve ethically that is something that should be considered. However, we should encourage different people to be in position so that we have more democratic leaders participating in the process.

What other issues should a district leader take a position on?

One of the most important roles of a District Leader is to be the community's link to the democratic process and party. To be someone that engages the community in the voting process with transparency on things like information on County Committee, ballot initiatives, and poll working. Not just electing judges and assigning poll workers, but also educating your constituents about the process and role as well.

This is something that's been missing from my district, and something I have already been working on through my organizing. My community is constantly left behind by our city government, and I have devoted myself for several years to creating more power within my community. Being District Leader I can use my connections to create more inclusivity and representation within the county party for our community here in South Brooklyn.

The District Leader should be someone who advocates for their community and district's issues. This means coalition building with other elected officials while being in constant communication with the community to make sure you have an understanding of issues on the ground. District Leaders have an opportunity to amplify the voice of their community to other city and party stakeholders.

For fun (answers to these questions are not required)

If your district had a musical anthem, what would it be and why?

Respect by Aretha! Because we're a district that deserves more resources and attention and we're going to get it!

What is your favorite restaurant in your district?

Besides Wen Gee Chinese takeout that I order from every week for the past 10+ years... I would say Ice House in Red Hook (try the wings and sweet potato fries) and Tacos Matamoros in Sunset Park (try the carne asada)!