

Thank you for agreeing to complete the South Central Brooklyn United for Progress State Senate District 21 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? Kevin Parker

What are your preferred pronouns? He/him

What office are you running for? 21st Senate District

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

Campaign manager Teri Coaxum at 718 938 3081 or campaignmanagerkp4nyc@gmail.com

What is your campaign address? 3613 Avenue H Brooklyn NY 11210

What is your campaign phone number? 718 938 3081

What is your campaign email? campaignmanagerkp4nyc@gmail.com

What is your campaign website? <https://kevinparker4senate.com>

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

@KevinParkerNYC on Twitter, IG, and FB

Campaign Issues

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding health care and what would you do to address them?

Accessibility and affordability are the greatest issues. Due to the failures of our free market approach to healthcare delivery, I support a single payer healthcare system, and cosponsored the New York Health Act.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding COVID-19 and recovery from its effects and what would you do to address them?

The economic recovery is the greatest challenge. While a recovery is inevitable, a recovery that lifts all boats is not. That is why I have championed the creation of clean energy jobs that provide living wages with benefits. This work includes my sponsoring the Climate and Community Investment Act and the Build Public Renewables Act, which together will create 200,000 green jobs requiring prevailing wages and management neutrality in unionization efforts. I also introduced legislation to study the implementation of a Universal Basic Income in New York.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding prejudice, hate crimes, and racial justice and what would you do to address them?

The sharp rise in hate crimes, particularly toward Asian Americans, is deeply painful. I support more public education, including in my own community, on promoting tolerance and understanding.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding public schools and education and what would you do to address them?

Children need full support. They will not reach their full potential in school if they have an undiagnosed learning disability or come to school hungry. For that reason I introduced legislation to make every school a Full Service School, modeled after the Beacon Program. I was also a longtime supporter of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity and proudly included the long overdue Foundation Aid in our budget last year.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding homelessness and housing and what would you do to address them? What is your philosophy about housing development in the district?

The eviction moratorium's expiration put many New Yorkers at risk of homelessness. This speaks to the broader issue of affordability. I support creation of 100% affordable housing based on realistic eligibility requirements, instead of an area median income that includes our suburbs. I also support workforce housing, which is designed to be affordable to rent-burdened individuals with incomes too high for most affordability programs. There is the issue of imprudent spending on homelessness, where we continue to pour billions into congregate shelters instead of a housing first model. Finally, we must reverse the decrepit state of our NYCHA developments, including the Bushwick Houses where I grew up, which is why I support a NYCHA New Deal to kickstart renovations.

What more do you think could be done in regards to pedestrian / bicycle / automobile safety in your district and/or in all of New York City / State?

We need more truly protected bike lanes in the city, instead of a mere painted line. We should also consider elevated crosswalks and other traffic calming measures, which could have prevented the tragic incident at a Queens intersection earlier this year. Furthermore, as Mayor Adams recently highlighted, we in Albany need to give the city full control over traffic enforcement cameras.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding voting access and voter suppression and what would you do to address them?

We need reforms to make it easier to vote, including no-excuse absentee ballots, same day voter registration, automatic voter registration, ending the wet signature registration requirement, ending "wrong church" ballot disqualification, and continuing early in-person voting. I also cosponsored the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York to create legal remedies for voter suppression, and introduced my own bill to allow the incarcerated to vote.

What other issues do you consider important and how will you address them?

Climate Change is an existential threat that, if left unchecked, could result in much of Central Brooklyn being underwater in a few generations. For this reason I authored my CCIA and Build Public Renewables Act to transition us to a clean energy future.

We must also institute more police reforms, for which I have introduced 50 bills in this legislative session. These include bills to reinstitute the NYPD residency requirement, define excessive force and homicide by police as their own crimes, require LEOs to identify themselves, prohibit racial profiling in traffic stops, require continuing education for LEOs, create non-police responses to mental health emergencies, give the CCRB jurisdiction over the NYPD, hold public preliminary hearings instead of secret grand juries in cases of excessive force by law enforcement, require agencies to report bias incidents to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, end the use of school safety officers, create a duty to intervene, and deduct NYPD settlements from an officer's pension.

My record on police reform includes passing the first package of police reform bills in any state legislature following the death of George Floyd. The laws require state police to wear body cameras (S8493), establish a right to record police activity (S3253A), and create the Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office (S3595). I was also instrumental in repealing 50a.

For fun (answers to these questions are not required)

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

"We Are the World," which describes my constituents fittingly.

What is your favorite restaurant in your district?

Suede Restaurant