

Thank you for agreeing to complete the South Central Brooklyn United for Progress District Leader AD46 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? Noah Weston

What are your preferred pronouns? he/him

What office are you running for? District Leader AD 46

Who is the point of contact for your campaign and what is the best way to get in touch with them? For now, me at 8185770860

What is your campaign address? 7504 5th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11209

What is your campaign phone number? 8185770860

What is your campaign email? info@noahweston.com

What is your campaign website? <http://www.noahweston.com>

Is your campaign on social media? If so, what platform(s) and what are the names? Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, all at @Noah4DL

## 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? **In addition to the explicitly stipulated responsibilities of the District Leader, I see it as a figure who can build the local party by identifying and developing future candidates for office, whose campaigns will depend on neighborhoods they come from, not consultants. Having helped build a strong branch of DSA in South Brooklyn and organized against white supremacy and Islamophobia, I have forged and will continue to forge authentic community bonds that other candidates for the seat either don't have, or worse yet, seemingly avoid.**

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? **I unfortunately don't see the current Brooklyn Democratic Party as much more than a means of consolidating power and distributing favors for shady insiders and their preferred incumbents. It should be an organization dedicated to building community power, worker power, and a more just and decent world by recruiting regular folx to run and win, including in areas written off as "red" districts.**

Are there any things the Brooklyn Democratic Party can do to be more transparent and accessible to the average Democrat? **For one thing, it should record and disclose its meeting minutes and votes for all to see, even better if meetings can be livestreamed (which we know they can). If it cannot operate in the light of day, it should not exist. It should also seek people to run as active participants in County Committee, not just as names on a list of proxies to accumulate. Furthermore, not only should District Leaders be convening ADCs, but it should be a genuinely binding obligation of the chair to ensure a higher minimum number of ADC meetings across the borough per year beyond merely one to occur 30 days prior or after an organization meeting of the full County Committee.**

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.)? **Yes, and these are among them! There should be multiple Committee meetings a year, with notice several months in advance to allow for members to make accommodations in their schedules and to discuss upcoming resolutions. And no automatic proxying should occur, even to District Leaders because it discourages intentional decision-making by members and still allows for too much opaque consolidation of power.**

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 they run on both the Democratic and Republican lines)? **First harm to the party has to be adequately and usefully defined to overlap with the public good because it's conceivable that this iteration of the Democratic Party can define it in ways that are self-serving rather than widely beneficial to communities. But assuming a definition that accounts for this, any Democrat who operates in a fashion akin to the IDC, aiding right-wing interests ought to be publicly censured and denied access to party resources.**

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? **Judicial nominees should have to have screenings with a majority of ADCs for recommendations (even if nonbinding) to add a layer of scrutiny. Furthermore, I think the process is compromised when the party chair holds elected office, worsening the pay-for-play nature of the process.**

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? **The executive committee is too small of a body to make any nominations regardless of the office and I think it should always be put to a vote by the County Committee with an opportunity to vote by mail, as well.**

Do you have any suggestions to improve how poll workers and Board of Elections staff are hired and used? **The Board must be professionalized statewide by Constitutional amendment but in the interim, the KCDC should have competitive processes that include consideration by the entire County Committee plus specific provisions disallowing family members of leadership or elected officials.**

How independent should district leaders be from other elected officials? Should district leaders be allowed to hold another elected position? Why or why not? **District Leaders should absolutely not hold other elected office because they should be building a party that empowers communities to shape it, not a party to get themselves elected or enrich their campaigns.**

What other issues should a district leader take a position on? **I think District Leaders should make all of their political stances known so we know what direction they'd take the party in. We deserve to know whether we have a party leadership dedicated to decency and justice versus the party that enabled and propelled the cruel mayoralty of Eric Adams.**

Assembly District 46 is one of the few districts in Brooklyn where there is a significant chance of a Republican winning the race. Assuming you are district leader, what do you plan to do to keep the district from flipping? **46 has been in jeopardy not because of a rightward shift but because local representation has failed to cultivate enthusiastic support for the party and its candidates and because the Brooklyn Democratic Party machine has been**

antagonistic to our current A.M. I will work to engage communities on the issues that the party machine and its acolytes have basically abandoned (like housing, real public safety) and if necessary, help primaries against electeds who are part of the problem.

**For fun (answers to these questions are not required)**

If your district had a musical anthem, what would it be and why? **I am admittedly struggling to come up with a good answer because the district is so diverse that it's hard to encapsulate in one song!**

What is your favorite restaurant in your district? **Tanoreen, hands down.**