

Thank you for agreeing to complete the South Central Brooklyn United for Progress State Senate District 26 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 Tuesday, July 5 by 8pm if you want to be considered for endorsement!

Campaign Information

What is your name? David Yassky

What are your preferred pronouns? He/him

What office are you running for? State Senate - District 26

Who is the point of contact for your campaign and what is the best way to get in touch with them? Zach Shartiag - zach@davidyassky.com

What is your campaign address? 69 Atlantic Avenue

What is your campaign phone number? 347-735-3600

What is your campaign email? info@davidyassky.com

What is your campaign website? davidyassky.com

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

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? Lack of access to health care,

cost of health care and cost of prescription drugs. I would expand subsidies for health insurance, expand the number and increase the quality of plans on the exchange, enable importation of drugs from Canada, change regulations to allow greater use of telemedicine and expand the ability of pharmacies to provide care.

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?

First, we are still in the pandemic and we may yet face more contagious and/or more harmful variants. New Yorkers need ongoing, nimble and data-driven government measures to minimize spread of the virus. Second, the pandemic greatly accelerated adoption of remote work. This will fundamentally change the New York economy in ways we do not yet fully understand. At a minimum, the remote work option means that New York must redouble its efforts to reduce crime, improve quality of life, improve subway service and reduce the cost of living in New York, including the cost of taxes, fees and other money paid to the government. The combination of reduced quality of life and a shrinking tax base would be disastrous.

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?

Asian-American NYers, Jewish NYers, Black NYers have all faced a rise in hate crimes. All hate crimes must be investigated, and the perpetrators identified. The goal should then be to promote healing and reconciliation through the use of restorative justice.

The most important step to promote racial justice more generally is to improve the educational opportunities available to children of color. NYCHA – landlord for to hundreds of thousands of people of color – must be thoroughly overhauled and funded to enable public housing apartments to be put into good condition.

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?

The NYC education system fails children with language based learning disabilities terribly. We need more schools like Bridge Prep and we need to give parents the ability to get specialized instruction for their children.

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?

Far too many New Yorkers pay unsustainable amounts for housing. We need to build many more affordable apartments, including supportive housing. We need crisis stabilization centers for homeless individuals dealing with serious mental illness or substance abuse, and we need to give EMTs greater latitude to get mentally ill homeless people the help they need.

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?

More bike lanes, more protected bike lanes, more red light cameras, better regulation of e-bikes and e-scooters.

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?

At the moment, the biggest problem for NYers in terms of electoral democracy is that the State Legislature allowed this year's primary elections to be split into two, generating mass confusion among voters. The Board of Elections needs to be reformed and professionalized so that NYers get absentee ballots promptly and can be confident that all votes, including absentee votes, are properly counted.

What other issues do you consider important and how will you address them? Conversion to electric vehicles – speed deployment of chargers, eliminate ban on direct sales of EVs; clean energy – phase out payments to utilities for natural gas infrastructure, eliminate subsidies for installation of new natural gas infrastructure.

Senate District 26 changes significantly from its Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights in the South to Sunset Park and Red Hook in the middle, to Cobble Hill and Dumbo in the North. What is your plan to provide for and unite these disparate neighborhoods? I have plenty of experience representing diverse neighborhoods. There is no substitute for time on the ground, working and communicating with neighbors in all parts of the district.

For fun (answers to these questions are not required)

If your district had a musical anthem, what would it be and why? The Rising, because District 26 is on the rise and because we, the residents of District 26, have the heart, acute perception of injustice, commitment to promoting justice, work ethic, stamina and sheer exuberance of the Boss himself. We are a multifaceted District, a District of seeming contradictions – a district of love and tears, of glory and sadness, of mercy and fear, of memory and shadow – yet we have the capacity to join hands and rise together in pursuit of our dreams.

What is your favorite restaurant in your district? Henry's End (also Court Street Grocers and Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory in the specialty categories)