



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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President

Lorraine Zamora

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld & Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas & Daniel Marks Cohen

April 23, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Re: Removing candidates from ballot

Dear Governor Cuomo, New York State Board of Election Commissioner Andrew J. Spano, Board Co-Chair Peter S. Kosinski, and Board Co-Chair Douglas A. Kellner:

On behalf of the Board of Three Parks Independent Democrats, I am writing to let you know we were pleased to learn of Governor Cuomo's plan to issue an executive order causing absentee ballots to be mailed to all voters instead of requiring voters to request them. We are dismayed, however, by the Board of Election's plan to remove candidates from the New York State Democratic Presidential Primary Ballot who, by virtue of having filed petitions in compliance with state law, have earned the right to a ballot position. Furthermore, this action would undermine current attempts to unify the Democratic Party and consequently hurt our chances of winning in November.

As you well know, there is more to the role of a convention delegate than voting on the Democratic Party's presidential endorsement. There is also the delegate's role in the vice presidential endorsement, the platform, and the rules. People who wish to be delegates have every right to run for an opportunity to participate in those functions. It is fundamentally wrong and undemocratic to remove them from the ballot. We voters also have the right to choose delegates to our party's convention who support our individual views and values.

Three Parks Independent Democrats has worked tirelessly for many years to expand the electorate, register voters, and encourage participation as the essence of democracy.

We call on all of you to allow the presidential primary to proceed unrestricted.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Zamora, President

917-348-5136

Copies to State Senators Benjamin and Jackson and Assembly Member O'Donnell