

## **Diego S. Segalini**

### **How long have you lived in the 26th Senate District?**

About 10 years.

### **Why do you want to serve as a member of the NYS Senate?**

I want to serve as a member of the State Senate because I am concerned with the direction that the country is moving in and I strongly believe that as New Yorkers, we can be at the forefront of positive social change. I believe that I can bring people together, empower them, and represent the people's interests, not just those of the 1%.

### **What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?**

Some of my proudest accomplishments include supporting at-risk communities such as artists and students by way of my not-for-profit work, ensuring they have the financial resources and real estate to continue making work in this City, and providing access to arts and culture to our youth -all of which contribute to the cultural capital of New York.

### **What are the greatest strengths and struggles of the Senate District 26?**

The greatest strengths of the 26<sup>th</sup> district are the diversity of its people- from the working class to the more affluent, from students to our seniors, from immigrants to native New Yorkers. People of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs come together in our district. Our diversity is our greatest asset.

The greatest struggles are the loss of affordable housing, mis-development, school overcrowding, a vulnerable waterfront, and the accelerated gentrification of some of our most distinctly characteristic New York neighborhoods.

### **What are some of the issues specific to the Brooklyn portion of the district you would address?**

Issues specific to the Brooklyn portion of the district include mis-development, school overcrowding, and waterfront resiliency.

### **Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?**

More than an endorsement, I want to connect with all the members of my district, on both sides of the East River, and receive support for my campaign. I want to learn from and have a dialogue with all constituents to ensure I am representing the people of my district. As progressive leaders in the district, I especially want to understand New Kings Democrats' approach to reform, in particular ethics reform.

### **If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?**

If elected, my top three legislative priorities will be:

1. Preservation and expansion of affordable housing
2. Raise the Age
3. Ethics reform

If elected, my top three budget priorities will be:

1. School funding
2. Transportation funding
3. Waterfront resiliency funding

**Do you pledge to caucus only with the Democrats? What are your thoughts on the IDC?**

I do pledge to caucus with the Democrats. I am confused by the IDC's allegiance with Republican lawmakers, and their ambiguous views on the progressive democratic ideals of our Party. With a unified Party in the Senate, we have an opportunity to bring real Democratic progress to Albany in partnership with the State Assembly and the Governor's Office.

**Do you pledge not to support any members of the IDC financially or with endorsements?**

I am someone that looks to work with anyone. Therefore I cannot make a sweeping generalization such as not supporting an IDC member, simply because of their affiliation. However, I do pledge to not support members of the IDC for re-election unless they agree to caucus once more with the Democratic Party.

**How do you think the Democratic parties of Manhattan and Brooklyn should choose their nominee in this election?**

Based on the current options I'm aware of, I would like to see a Democratic nominee selected by a County Convention inclusive of both Manhattanites and Brooklynites. If I had another way of doing this, I would prefer to have an open and democratic primary.

**In what ways would you like to expand voting access?**

I would like to see voting access expanded by exploring the pros and cons of early voting. I would also like to increase the number of registered voters, and to increase education around the electoral process in general.

**What criminal justice reforms would you like to see the Senate enact?**

The criminal justice reforms that I would like to see enacted are Raise the Age, and stricter penalties for elected officials that subvert the public trust. Another important issue I want to address as a lawmaker is ensuring each citizen's right to due process.

**NKD supports holding a New York State Constitutional Convention. Do you? Why or why not?**

I'm open to holding a NYS Constitutional Convention. I believe the Constitution to be a 'living' document and the only way to keep it relevant to the issues of the evolving world is to review it periodically.

**What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?**

I have received positive feedback from many stakeholders in my community, from the neighbors I know and those I've met as part of this process, my colleagues at work as well as members of my Board of Directors, my fellow parishioners, and those I've worked with at Community Boards 1 and 3.

**Of the elected officials in the NYS Senate, who do you admire most and why?**

I admire former State Senator Squadron. His community conventions were a great way for us, his constituents, to connect with one another and our government leaders. I pledge to continue them if I am elected.

**What is one fun fact about you?**

I rang the bell at the New York Stock Exchange twice.