



2018 State Senate Candidate Questionnaire

Completed questionnaires will be public documents available on our website, so put your best foot forward. If we ultimately hold an endorsement vote in your race, your questionnaire will be circulated to our membership before the vote.

Name	Julia Salazar
State Senate District number and neighborhoods represented	State Senate District 18, which includes parts of Bushwick, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Cypress Hills, City Line, East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Brownsville.
Preferred campaign contact information: name, email address, phone number	Michael Kinnucan; michael@salazarforsenate.com ; [REDACTED]
How long have you lived in the above district?	I've lived in New York for 9 years and in District 18 for 4 years.
What civic and political organizations are you involved with in the district?	Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ) Communities United for Police Reform Coalition NY Caring Majority NYC Democratic Socialists of America
What are the greatest strengths and struggles of your Senate district?	We face eviction and displacement because our political leaders have failed to prevent rents from skyrocketing. Meanwhile, immigrants and people of color in my district face the threat of ICE and police harassment. My Bushwick community is a place I am proud to call home. It is full of people committed to each other, to our neighbors and to our city as a whole. Together we are all working to make New York a better and more caring place.
Why do you want to serve as a member of the State Senate?	New York is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis, our immigrant communities are under attack, and hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers cannot afford healthcare. As a daughter of working class immigrants, I am running for State Senate to bring North Brooklyn's voices to Albany. I am a union member and have been a community organizer in NYC for nearly a decade. I know from experience that our state legislators have failed to properly represent us and defend our interests. I'm fully committed to making sure my legislative priorities are informed by the needs of the working people and families in my district.
What have you accomplished in public life that you are most proud of?	I first began organizing in college, when I gathered my neighbors to fight our landlord and management company, and won. It was an experience that shaped my perspective on how to create change in both the short and long term. I also was at the forefront of the years-long campaign to pass the Right to Know Act through the City Council, which finally passed this past December.
What do you consider to be the highlights of your work experience?	In the years since I first organized my neighbors to challenge our abusive landlord, I've worked as an organizer for the UAW on Barnard adjunct faculty's successful contract fight, advocated with the statewide Caring Majority campaign to provide care to all New Yorkers, and fought to win the Right to Know Act campaign in my role within the Communities United for Police Reform coalition. I've most recently served as a staff organizer and communications coordinator for Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ),

	<p>advocating for criminal justice reform and police accountability, as well as developing the leadership of fellow Jewish people of color. Through my role on the organizing committee of NYC-DSA's Socialist Feminist Working Group, I've advocated for single-payer healthcare and reproductive rights.</p>
<p>Why do you want New Kings Democrats' endorsement?</p>	<p>I deeply respect the work that NKD does in fighting for progressive change in Brooklyn and for transparency and accountability from our elected leaders. I want to be a part of a broader coalition advocating for our neighbors and communities, not only during this election cycle, but in the work we have ahead of us. NKD plays a critical role in this, so I would be honored to have NKD's endorsement.</p>
<p>If elected, what will your top three legislative and budgetary priorities be while in office?</p>	<p>Stronger Rent Laws – With our rent laws expiring in 2019, New York is at a crossroads. I will fight to end vacancy decontrol, expand the rent stabilization system to cover all New York apartments, end permanent MCI-induced rent increases, and invest state funding in truly affordable housing.</p> <p>Universal Health Care – We need to pass the New York Health Act to ensure that every New Yorker has comprehensive healthcare regardless of their income, employment, or immigration status.</p> <p>End Cash Bail – We need to end the cash bail system in New York. This would make tremendous progress toward the goal of ending mass incarceration, and would help address the serious problem of the criminalization of poor and working class New Yorkers.</p>
<p>If elected, how will you support the work of New Kings Democrats and its partners to make New York City government more transparent, accountable, or inclusive?</p>	<p>New York has some of the most repressive election laws in the country, restricting access to voting and allowing corporate money to flood elections. We must end the LLC loophole, which allows corporations and the rich to donate an infinite amount of money to candidates anonymously by registering LLCs. We must enact same-day registration, automatic voter registration, early voting, open primaries, greater language support, and an end to felony disenfranchisement. New York City has a public finance matching system that, while flawed, makes its elections significantly fairer and more accessible to working-class candidates compared to State-level elections. We must enact a public financing system that can tip the scales of power away from big real estate, pharmaceutical, and finance donors in State elections.</p>
<p>What is your vision for the Brooklyn Democratic Party?</p>	<p>The Democratic Party in Brooklyn needs to remember what it means to be democratic. I deeply admire NKD's RepYourBlock campaign and work to transform the Brooklyn Democratic Party into one that is accountable to constituents rather than to power brokers. The Brooklyn Democratic Party will be stronger when more Kings County residents are running for office and engaged with their local Community Boards.</p>
<p>How will you contribute to efforts to attain unified Democratic control of the New York State Senate?</p>	<p>It is time that the Democratic Party's leadership focus on building power for working people rather than preserving the incumbency of its members who caucus with Republicans. I will caucus with the Democratic Party and actively organize as a State Senator to make sure that progressive values are being represented.</p>
<p>How do you think the Democratic Party can improve the way it operates in the State</p>	<p>The Democratic Party must accept more progressive voices into its leadership and focus on advancing progressive policies in the State Senate. We need to strengthen the coalition of Democrats in the State Senate under Senator</p>

Senate?	Stewart-Cousins's leadership so that together we can finally pass urgent policies like the Reproductive Health Act, the New York Health Act, and the Climate & Community Protection Act that have been held up by the toxic political dynamic in the current State Senate.
What is one important way you think the State Senate should be reformed, and what is your plan for trying to implement such reform?	We need to reform the way that vacant positions are filled so that it is a genuinely democratic process. I would seek to work in coalition with NKD and community organizations to demand reforms in order to make the electoral and legislative processes more democratic and more accessible.
What funds have you raised for this campaign? What are the major sources of your campaign funds?	Our campaign has raised over \$140,000 and is driven by small dollar donations. Our average contribution size is approximately \$50.
What endorsements have you received from publications, electeds, community leaders, or political organizations?	Representative Nydia Velazquez Cynthia Nixon Council Member Jumaane Williams Council Member Antonio Reynoso Comptroller Scott Stringer Make the Road Action New York Communities for Change Citizen Action of New York Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Democratic Socialists of America New York Professional Nurses Union UAW Region 9A Grassroots Action Brooklyn Progressive Action Network New York Progressive Action Network Our Revolution Food and Water Watch NYC Kids PAC Public Arts Commission The Jewish Vote (JFREJ)
What areas of the district do you see as your biggest sources of votes and support?	We're getting great response from all over the district, from Greenpoint to Cypress Hills, but we believe our strongest areas will be South Williamsburg, East Williamsburg and western Bushwick.
Which member of the State Senate do you admire most and why?	I admire the public service of several members of the State Senate, but I think Senator Krueger's integrity and her consistent dedication to fighting to pass feminist legislation is especially admirable.
What are some of the ways you think New York City residents can best participate in civic life?	Our power as working people comes through organizing—in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. One way that New York City residents could meaningfully make an impact, especially considering that our rent laws are expiring in 2019, would be by coming together to form tenants unions to accomplish together what we never could alone.
What is one fun fact about you?	When I was a child and people asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I told them I wanted to be a crossing guard.

I have reviewed this questionnaire and agree that the responses set forth in this document are accurate:

Candidate Signature: Julia Salazar

Date: 7/30/2018

You must sign this questionnaire! When complete, please e-mail your signed and scanned questionnaire to

politics@newkingsdemocrats.com and info@newkingsdemocrats.com