



Independence Party of Richmond County

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TESTIMONY OF ALESSANDRA KANE TO THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION APRIL 13, 2010

Good evening. My name is Alessandra Kane. I'd like to introduce myself as an independent voter, but I cannot vote in every election, particularly the primaries. These are crucial elections in which I do not have the right to vote.

I graduated from the College of Staten Island last year, and a family member offered to help find me a job, as he has friends and contacts in local politics. I was quite surprised when he asked me what party I belong to. When I told him my political affiliation, he said "Oh, that's too bad, because all of my contacts are Republicans." Then he told me, "That's okay, you're a kid and no one takes you seriously anyway", but that was as far as it went. Why should I be a Republican or a Democrat to have a job, vote, or be recognized in our city, our country?

In my opinion, the NYC charter doesn't represent everyone. Young voters, who increasingly do not affiliate themselves with either the Democratic or Republican parties aren't taken seriously when it comes to these elections. Young people, like myself, are told that we are the future of NYC and are encouraged to be involved in the decision making process.

I want to ask the Charter Revision Commission to take young people seriously, to take me seriously, and to put non-partisan elections on the ballot so we can have the right to participate and be heard. Thank you for your time and have a good evening.