

Why registered Democrats should vote Sanders in the N.Y. Primary

A socialist perspective

The Party for Socialism and Liberation and the Gloria La Riva / Eugene Puryear PSL Presidential Campaign are joining together with other left-wing forces and labor unionists who are encouraging already registered Democrats to cast a ballot for Bernie Sanders, and against Hillary Clinton, in the New York State Primary on Tuesday, April 19.

To that end, we are helping to distribute the "Battle of New York" newspaper, which includes articles from Dr. Cornel West, Michelle Alexander, Glenn Greenwald, the Transit Workers Union Local 100, and Fahd Ahmed, Executive Director of Desis Rising Up and Moving, among others. The project is independent of the Bernie Sanders campaign and crowd-funded among people who agree with the paper's political perspective.

The PSL is not on the New York State primary ballot and we typically play no role in any other party's primary elections. Our members, like millions of other "independents," are not registered as Democrats or Republicans, and are thus barred from voting in New York State's closed primary races.

But those who are registered as Democratic Party voters can play a decisive role this Tuesday in the national contest between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. This is no ordinary Democratic Party race, in which the candidates basically have a personality contest while representing the same powers and offering the same vision. The two candidates have come to represent a great divide within society and within the Democratic Party itself.

Clinton is the candidate of the status quo favored by Wall Street, the Pentagon, the



Democratic Party machine, and the corporate media. Those political forces have been working non-stop to defeat Sanders, a self-described "democratic socialist" — who has galvanized a movement around his progressive program for universal health care, tuition-free public universities, paid family leave, a \$15/hour minimum wage, an end to private prisons and to stop the phony "War on Drugs."

Sanders' message has resonated so powerfully among low-wage workers, young people and others that he has gone from an unknown candidate just a short while ago to winning eight of the last nine states against Clinton. The Democratic Party establishment is so alarmed that they're now counting on their "super delegates" (professional politicians and operatives) to cast votes for Clinton at the Convention, even if their states support Sanders. They're exposing just how undemocratic the Democratic Party, and the whole electoral system, really are.

New York State will get to decide if the progressive revolt from below within the Democratic Party will continue to challenge the status quo, or if it will be suppressed. A Clinton victory here could make her lead insurmountable, while a Sanders

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victory would be such a groundbreaking upset that it could tip the momentum in the remaining states and potentially bring Sanders even with Clinton headed into the Convention.

The socialist program of the La Riva / Puryear campaign differs substantially from Sanders. Unlike Sanders, we believe the big banks should be seized and put under people's democratic control, not broken into smaller private banks. We believe all U.S. aid to Israel should be ended and we stand completely with Palestine. We believe disastrous climate change can only be reversed by getting rid of the capitalist system. We believe in dismantling the Pentagon's \$1 trillion budget for Empire.

We disagree that people should vote for Clinton in the general election if Sanders loses the primary. The Democratic Party leadership's plan to deprive Sanders of the nomination, including stealing it from him at the Convention, would be just further proof that it is a party of the ruling elites, and won't become a vehicle for the people's struggle from below. What is most necessary is to build a strong people's movement independent of both major parties. We are running our campaign in the November general election with this program and perspective.

We know that elections alone won't change the system. But in tomorrow's vote, registered Democrats in New York have a clear choice and a real opportunity to reject the Democratic Party machine, the Wall Street-owned political establishment and capitalist politics as usual — by voting for Sanders on Tuesday.

Regardless of the outcome, we call on everyone to join with us to build the movement for socialism in the coming days and months!

Who We Are

The Party for Socialism and Liberation is made up of leaders and activists, workers and students, of all backgrounds. Organized in branches across the country, we bring together a new generation of revolutionaries alongside veterans of the people's movements.

The PSL is deeply involved in a wide range of struggles, from local battles over affordable housing and racist police brutality, to the fight for a higher minimum wage, to the global problems of imperialist war and environmental destruction.

We are united in our belief that capitalism — the system in which all wealth and power is held by a tiny group of billionaires — is the source of the main problems confronting humanity today. We are actively looking for other committed people, with similar values, to get involved and join us!



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