What the Fair Ballot Democrats Stand For

As candidates running under the slogan "Fair Ballot Democrats," we are committed to bringing greater transparency, inclusivity, and fairness to the Democratic Party in Essex County.

We believe that District Leaders, as the only directly elected members of the Essex County Democratic Committee (ECDC), have the potential to play a robust and proactive role in shaping the direction of the party and ensuring that it represents the diverse interests of our community.

If elected, we pledge to collaborate and:

1. Work with our colleagues across Essex Count to draft and sign a conflict-of-interest policy and ask leadership of ECDC to adopt it.
2. Continue to advocate for a **permanent end to the county line ballo**t because it's INCORRECT that the line has been eliminated. (The 3rd Circuit's ruling, while believed by some to have ended the county line ballot, only applied to the current primary, leaving its future uncertain. Furthermore, the 2024 Essex County primary ballot closely resembled the county line, failing to address several associated problems.)
3. Ensure that future ballot designs are meaningfully different from the traditional county line format, are subject to a transparent design process, and that candidates are randomly positioned by office using the office block model.
4. Increase scrutiny and transparency around county and municipal endorsements and party expenditures.
5. Push for a county convention with ballots that allow for members to vote their consciences.

In addition to these specific goals, we are fully committed to carrying out all the duties and responsibilities of District Leaders as outlined in the Essex District Leader Manual (2023) , including:

- **Participating in the election of key party leadership positions** to shape the direction, vision, and priorities of the Democratic Party at both the county and local levels.
- **Engaging in voter recruitment and registration efforts** to expand the party's base and ensure that a broader spectrum of voices are represented in the democratic process.
- **Actively supporting and participating in campaign walks and events** with local and county candidates.
- **Working with local and/or county organizations on fundraising** activities when appropriate to secure the financial resources necessary for campaigns, party infrastructure, and essential initiatives.

- **Serving as liaisons to bring local issues to the attention of Democratic officeholders** at all levels of government.
- **Networking with neighborhood activist groups, community groups, merchants, and civic associations** to promote collaboration, strengthen community ties, and foster a greater sense of civic participation.
- **Ensuring that there are poll checkers and challengers** in the districts, wards, or neighborhoods they represent on Election Day.

As Fair Ballot Democrats, we believe that by fulfilling these responsibilities and working towards our stated goals, we can build a Democratic Party that is open, accountable, and responsive to the needs of all Essex County residents. We look forward to earning your support and the opportunity to serve as your District Leaders.