

Central Brooklyn DSA 2021 City Council Endorsement Information Packet

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District 35

Michael Hollingsworth

NYC-DSA City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2021

Thank you for applying for an endorsement with the New York City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. If you have any questions about this document or the endorsement process feel free to email us at endorsements@socialists.nyc. And please return the completed questionnaire by **August 15, 2020**.

A. DSA AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM

Are you a member of DSA? If not, would you join?

Yes I am. I attended my first meeting in 2018 after learning about the org from some of my friends who are members. My first meeting was a general membership meeting, which in hindsight probably isn't the best way to be introduced into DSA. I met Jonah, Abi, and Melissa that evening, they were warm inviting and made me feel welcomed. I was invited to a member social a few weeks later which was less intimidating, I got invited to a housing working group the next month and my journey with CBK-DSA began.

What is your theory of social change?

Most social change happens at the grassroots/activist level. From interracial marriage in 1967 to Obama's support of gay marriage in 2012 and then the Supreme Court affirming it in 2015, to the recent nationwide police reforms, all are examples of activists fighting for years, in some cases for decades, while politicians blocked their efforts and then eventually, begrudgingly got on board. I learned that just talking about problems isn't enough, just asking politicians to fix them isn't enough; it takes a lot of work bringing regular people together, making plans, making noise, making good trouble, until you can change what people's expectations are, at which point people who we have given political power have no choice but to listen and act.

I think social change starts at and must be driven by the grassroots, which is how I got here. I started organizing my tenant association when our landlord started converting our rent stabilized building into condos, gut renovating and selling empty apartments while refusing repairs to long term tenants. After joining the Crown Heights Tenant Union, my building realized we had to target all the Crown Heights buildings in our landlord's portfolio, so we organized a local that won a lot of repairs. I started representing CHTU in city and statewide coalitions like Housing Justice for All, the Rent Justice Coalition, and Right To Counsel NYC. With those groups we won new statewide tenant protections, rent freezes, and eviction moratoriums that we keep extending through direct action. In Southern Crown Heights I didn't sit by and let an unjust rezoning happen, but instead I sued the city and Laurie Cumbo to stop it. I knocked on hundreds of doors for my neighbor Phara Souffrant-Forest and comrade Jabari Brisport to help them get elected. That's direct action pressuring landlords, city agencies, the legal system, state electeds, and then circling back to door knocking. That's building power from my building to a statewide coalition, and back again.

How does the campaign you are planning and the elected position you are considering relate to your theory of social change? How do you see electoral politics advancing socialism?

While most electeds are reactive I intend to be proactive. Because I'm a housing activist we're used to identifying a problem and then taking action to solve it. My main area of focus, and where I hope to usher in the most change, is around land use and rezoning. For far too long our electeds (specifically Brooklyn Dems) have pretended that they have no power or say in the decisions that displace our neighbors. For example, Laurie Cumbo took as much money as she could from developers and real estate interests and sold out our neighborhoods and now has the unmitigated gall to talk about gentrification. It's not just that Cumbo et al are taking bribes for approving projects that displace people; it's something worse, where they are trying to convince people that predatory development and displacement is some kind of law of nature and that we're stupid if we think that we should demand better or fight back, if we think that our electeds should demand better or fight back. They're gaslighting us when we show them receipts on how RE has screwed us in the past, and then tell us that we don't know how it works and that their decisions are actually going to help us. Our Brooklyn Dems' have shown limited vision of what's possible, and they refuse to see the full gravity of our housing crisis, or inequality in general, because it would require more courage than they can muster.

This is the standard operating procedure for most of our electeds who claim to be progressive. By focusing on socialist housing policy, the priorities that DSA members have identified as crucial planks of our socialist vision - defunding the NYPD, desegregating schools - naturally follow out of that housing focus. This can keep communities intact and advance socialism as a viable alternative to what we have now.

Do you identify as a socialist?

Yes. I prefer Black socialist. I think it's important to let other Black folks know that socialism isn't scary and that Black people in America and socialism have a connected history.

What does socialism mean to you?

To me, socialism is a way for the everyday citizen to have greater control over every aspect of their lives and communities. For example, during the early months of COVID, many of our low-wage marginalized workers were forced back into meatpacking plants, cashiers and grocery workers were put on the front lines, and public transportation workers were all forced to work in unsafe conditions, in many cases with no choice but to acquiesce. Meanwhile we asked nothing of those who profited the most during the pandemic. Under a socialist system the workers would have come together to decide if, when and how it was safe to go back to work; the wellbeing of workers would be just as important as the things they produce or the services they provide, or the cost to the consumer, and workplaces have responsibilities toward their employees, and not just vice versa. We have a system, a climate, and a culture that refuses to ask those who have the most to do more: no tax increases during or after the pandemic, even though the richest Americans have seen their wealth grow by 20%; no real reforms after the financial crisis of 2008, no bankers prosecuted. But we have a system, a climate, and a culture that has no trouble asking those of us with the least to give and the most to lose to "get back on the wheel" to save

the American economy. We have a system, a climate, and a culture that has no problem creating a slush fund with zero accountability for big businesses during a pandemic, but can't muster the courage to extend federal unemployment to hurting families. Socialism is the only legitimate counter to capitalism's cradle-to-the grave grip on the American people.

When I describe capitalism as having a cradle-to-the-grave grip on us I mean the way money, the pursuit of it, what having access to it allows us to do and more importantly the barriers not having it puts in the way of living a full life. What's the first thing most couples think about before they have a child? Can we afford to have a baby?

From that conception point we go to:

- Education: K-12
 - In NYC, even under one school district that should redistribute our wealth equally to fund all our kids' education equally, affluent communities use their PTAs to privately fund more school resources and privately fund tutoring for the magnet schools. Those of us who are born into families with financial disadvantages shouldn't also be placed at an educational disadvantage. It's akin to entering the marathon called life at the back of the pack, blindfolded, spun around in a circle and then being told to come in first place.
 - Private investors have seeped into public schools via charter schools, and as parents understandably scramble to grab any relative advantage for their child, funding for the public school system withers in low-income neighborhoods, exactly the places that need it the most, who serve the kids who need it the most.
- Education: College
 - We're told the only way to get a good job is with higher education and then if we're lucky enough to find a job in our chosen field, we spend the rest of our lives trying to repay that debt.
- Healthcare
 - We can't afford it, and we can't afford to get sick.
- Housing
 - Local, state and the federal government have all but given up on building truly affordable and safe housing, leaving the task of housing us to private developers, which leaves most of us fighting for the few truly affordable units that do exist, I could also talk about how multi-generational living is caused by this and it's one of the reasons COVID-19 had such a devastating impact on Black and brown communities, but don't get me started...
- Retirement
 - That SS retirement age keeps going up and up, while benefits don't increase enough to sustain the COLA, forcing millions of Americans who spent decades working to continue to work in their twilight years

We have put a profit motive in every aspect of our lives. We spend our entire lives hoping that if we just work a little harder, a little longer one day we too can join the middle class, perhaps then we'll deserve a decent life, have stable access to the fundamental components of a dignified

existence. Certain things cannot be left to the profit motive to sort out because they are actually human rights, and DSA's victories show that more and more Central Brooklynites are starting to deprogram themselves from the death cult that is capitalism.

Are you willing to run publicly as a socialist?

Yes, and as the 35th District has a Socialist ballot line, I would want to run under that line in the general, whether or not I win the Democratic Primary. Because it necessarily involves canvassing and outreach, I can commit to doing the work necessary to maintain that ballot line for future elections.

Will you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a slate?

I look forward to it. Running on a DSA slate is crucial for building momentum but especially for actually governing once elected. We can't win big changes without like-minded colleagues, so it's in any socialist's best interest to put energy into getting other socialists elected.

Will you publicize DSA's endorsement?

The 35th District has seen more DSA electoral activity than anywhere else in the city. It also has a large number of Central Brooklyn DSA branch members within its borders. I am proud of the work we have done here to elect socialist candidates and would be equally proud to publicize my fellow comrades' endorsement.

How does your candidacy represent the district you intend to run in, along with NYC-DSA?

I think the fact that I'm a Black tenant in a still majority Black tenant district, coupled with the fact that I'm born and bred here is a great starting point. The fact that I've proven that I can work across socio-economic lines, ethnic/racial lines, generational lines puts me in a position to listen to and represent all my constituents.

Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from for-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs?

Yes. I can't imagine any such entities wanting to back my candidacy anyway.

Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords?

The Crown Heights Tenant Union was my entry into the world of activism. In 2015, Cea Weaver, one of CHTU's founding members, floated the idea of having candidates sign a pledge swearing off real estate money. Diana Richardson was the first candidate to sign on to the pledge as a candidate running for office in 2015, and in January 2021 Brooklyn will have three state senators (Salazar, Myrie, and Brisport) and two Assembly Members (Souffrant-Forest, Mitaynes, Gallagher, Richardson, and Anderson) representing us who didn't take real estate money to win. As a lifelong Black, Brooklynite tenant who has witnessed firsthand the impact that the real estate industry has had on my neighbors and neighborhood, there is no way that I will ever accept big real estate's blood money.

Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions or endorsements from organizations in the carceral system (such as law enforcement unions)?

I will not take contributions from these organizations, nor will I accept money from elected officials or organizations that have received these contributions. Clean hands are clean hands, and there's no such thing when cop unions are funding a candidate.

Are you open to working with DSA when developing your platform?

Yes, we've created a pretty detailed platform, particularly around housing issues, but we also understand that campaigns are fluid and are willing to adapt accordingly and listen to and implement ideas from comrades. My time in DSA has already significantly shaped my political tendencies, and I expect that process of growth to continue especially in the areas of environmental and labor justice.

Will you allow the DSA Electoral Working Group to create campaign materials to distribute during its work on your campaign?

Yes. Full Disclosure: I'm a graphic designer at my "day job," and I look forward to collaborating on campaign materials with my DSA comrades!

DSA has a large and active volunteer base. Will you support DSA training our own volunteers, running our own canvasses, and campaigning openly as DSA members?

Yes. I plan on bringing in other social justice fighters who don't identify as socialists but are aligned with us in many areas ideologically. I hope that DSA would allow them to also take part in the trainings and canvasses. In light of the false narrative that my current council member has been promoting - that DSA-backed candidates are supported mostly by white gentrifiers and not by established community members - it is important to me that my volunteer base be a diverse mix of DSA folks and longtime Crown Heights and D35 residents who have long been visible in local activist circles. This neutralizes that narrative and will potentially lead to those folks becoming active DSA members. The more comrades we have here in the 35th District, the more we can bring that message and mandate to municipal government.

Who will be running your field program?

Currently it's a group effort, just like every aspect of our campaign.

Will you allow DSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program?

Yes. Also if endorsed I hope Offer would play a huge role in the field work.

Will you allow DSA to keep copies of all data we collect through voter contact?

Yes. In the same way previous endorsed candidates' data will help me if I am endorsed, I want the work we do engaging voters in this district to be valuable to future socialist candidates.

What staff and/or consultants have you hired?

Everyone on our team is a volunteer because we all believe in the mission statement. They are all heavily involved in their own orgs and I hope to integrate them with my fellow DSA comrades

and paid staff much like previous endorsed candidates have done. Consultants are overrated and there are already folks in DSA doing electoral work who I would trust over an outside consultant any day.

What voter contact program are you using for your campaign?

Reach, Mini VAN.

In past campaigns, DSA has had teams of member-organizers who work directly with campaign staff on areas such as field, communications, fundraising, data, and legal compliance. Will you agree to this arrangement and guarantee that your staff will build direct relationships with members of our campaign team?

Every member of our current team is a social justice fighter, we love to collaborate and work together. In the CHTU, we are all unpaid member-organizers, and I believe in rank and file participation in every aspect of an org's work in a campaign.

B. GOALS OF YOUR CAMPAIGN

What is your estimated number of votes needed to win?

10,000+

What is the central message of your campaign?

I want to center and prioritize residents in the decisions that will impact their day to day lives and the lives of their descendants who might someday want to call District 35 their home. I want to prevent displacement and keep families, neighborhoods, communities together. I want to put people over profits; communities over corporations; solidarity instead of selling out.

What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates?

Education, economic opportunity and policing. These three are crucial components in ensuring that for once in my lifetime those of us who have lived on the margins may be able to finally realize our full potential.

- Education
 - Education is the foundation for everything we do in life, so we need to level the playing field to ensure that we don't just say "all of our children are entitled to a good education" but that they actually get it.
 - As an uncle who is currently witnessing how early and quickly kids want to and can learn (I get a lot of "Uncle Mike what's that," or "Uncle Mike why's this," and "Uncle Mike how do you [fill in the blank]"), I fully support and will fight to have all our children have access to 3K.
 - We need to focus on ending charter school expansion and co-location and instead work on strengthening our existing schools and reducing class size.
 - Speaking of class size, we need to start building new schools that are fit for 21st century education and beyond. It's a disgrace that most of us can instantly think of three or four unaffordable housing developments that have been built in our

neighborhoods but would have difficulty pinpointing the last time a new school was built.

- I've had so many friends who started out with me in elementary school, but because of problems at home, family culture and/or just being labeled bad and being put in the bad class, they took routes that led them into a life that involved criminality. And I truly believe that if there had been ways to intervene when they were young students, their lives and our community would have been better for it.
- Economic opportunity
 - Once our people graduate from either high school or college, we need to ensure that there are jobs for them.
 - Violent crime has entered my life on numerous occasions and one thing I am certain about is that the folks who committed those acts were not fully employed with benefits. From my personal experience, most people who commit most crimes do so because for them it's their only avenue to get what they need to survive.
 - Providing economic opportunity also enables Black and marginalized folks to open businesses in our communities, which is another avenue to create generational wealth. Finally passing commercial rent control is one piece of this puzzle.
 - People with steady full-time employment also are more likely to achieve homeownership (especially with legislation to lower the barriers), which would help stabilize Black communities. Universal Rent Control can provide a similar level of stability for renters who don't want to own a home.
- Police
 - When I was a kid the NYPD budget was below 1 billion dollars and the uniform police department was in the low 20,000, so I have witnessed both the budget and force grow over the course of 30 years, and crime still exists. This is because most of us who have lived in communities plagued by crime know that flooding our neighborhoods with more and more police, decade after decade, is treating the symptom and not dealing with the systemic and structural causes of crime.
 - This is why beginning a process of drawing down the NYPD and ensuring that that money is actually put into educational programs, anti-poverty programs, community violence disruption programs, etc. is so crucial.

And finally, housing, land use and rezonings. While everyone else running in this race will no doubt claim that they are strong on housing and will be a champion for the working class, the issues that will distinguish us from other candidates is our complete 180 from the incumbent's approach to land use and rezoning. Some of the points in our platform that will distinguish us include:

- An immediate moratorium on all rezonings (spot and district-wide)

- A ban on luxury units in low-income/working-class communities that have carried the bulk of the new unaffordable housing built over the past two decades
- A complete overhaul of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program in order to mandate affordability
- Calling and advocating for the federal, city, and state government to invest in building more social/low-income housing
- Calling and advocating for the end to tax breaks provided to developers
- A complete overhaul of Land Use Review procedures to prevent corruption and prioritize people over profits
- A ban on selling or leasing city-owned lots/properties to private entities
- Blocking other privatization of public land (e.g. NYCHA)
- Creating pathways for communities to control their homes
- The vigorous use of eminent domain

How will your campaign appeal to working class voters and those disaffected with the political process?

By listening to and hearing them. By talking to them, the same way I've been doing over the past four years, in building lobbies, on subway platforms, in grocery lines, at community board meetings, at picnics, in basically any space where people gather and are willing to engage. By explaining to them that I was once where they are now, but that I believe good people unconnected to the current political power structure can make a difference. By showing them what we can accomplish together in solidarity.

What party lines will you be seeking for the general election?

Democratic, Socialist and WFP.

Have you applied for the endorsement of the Working Families Party?

Not yet.

Have you sought the endorsement of your county Democratic Committee?

No. Based on the recent outcome in the primaries, the future doesn't look too bright for machine-backed candidates in Central Brooklyn and we are not ideologically attuned.

How do you plan to approach Ranked-choice Voting?

We're still game planning a few strategies at this time.

How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race and what is your plan to raise it?

The real estate industry has had designs on District 35 for decades. They poured money into the race in 2013 and 2017, so Laurie Cumbo's advantage had less to do with her own fundraising than it did with the independent expenditures (and the misinformation their mailers contained) from REBNY and other powerful groups backing rezonings that would ultimately need her

approval. 2021 will be no different. I will need to raise the max each cycle to compete against the monied candidates. And from the start I will challenge all of the other candidates in this district to not only disavow these independent expenditures, but to take legal action if/when these expenditures are made public.

What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work or personal networks?

My neighbors, the ones still here and those who have been displaced, members of Community Boards 8 and 9, the Crown Heights Tenant Union, the Movement To Protect The People, Tenants PAC, Flower Lovers Against Corruption, members of these orgs who are active in New Kings Democrats and Rep Your Block, my neighbor who was just elected to serve in the NYS Assembly, and I'm working on a few more currently.

What endorsements do you have from elected officials, political organizations, unions and community leaders?

This is my first endorsement questionnaire and I'm sure there will be many more to come. I don't have any personal relationships with any elected officials, it's just not a circle I travel or associate in (see above for the exception of my fellow building neighbor). While CHTU doesn't engage or endorse in electoral politics I have the support of the Organizing Committee, and having repped CHTU in coalitions I am confident that I can count on broad support from the tenant movement, and I will seek the endorsement of Tenants PAC. I also have the support of MTOPP and FLAC. I've also engaged in early discussions with some other orgs.

How do you see yourself acting as a movement candidate? What does that mean to you?

I see myself acting the same way I have been. Identifying problems, rallying allies and finding solutions. The tenant movement has long understood that we needed to put our own people in office who live where we live and experience what we experience. Being a movement candidate means accountability to a base of fellow activists who aren't afraid to call me out when I mess up and will have my back when I go to battle for us. I want to look back in a couple decades and see my activism and elected public service all as part of the same story.

C. GOALS IN OFFICE

If elected, you'll be one of a few representatives who support a Democratic Socialist vision for our city. How will you work with other democratic socialists and allies in the City Council and other bodies (such as the state legislature) to form a unified and effective democratic socialist movement in the New York government?

Hopefully, there will be more than a few of us. Collaboration is in my nature. As a housing fighter I've learned that the only way victories are achieved is collectively. I think I will use a strategy similar to the one used by Julia Salazar who partners with true progressives in both the Assembly and Senate like Yuh-Line, Diana, and Zellnor on issues where they are aligned. I

would hope to have a similar working relationship with others on the left who I will probably agree with on 99% of the issues. I would also hope to partner with our CBK state and federal electeds to work on new ways to only provide tax incentives for developers who build 100% truly affordable housing (not based on inaccurate AMI, as it is currently). Our ultimate goal is to get the federal, state and local governments back into the home-building arena with funding that lasts and tenant control.

Beyond contributing significantly to capacity in field, fundraising and other aspects of the campaign, would you be open to having DSA members as staff in policy positions and/or to collaborating with our working groups on policy?

Yes. The working groups have been working with other organizations who have the experience to create good policy in their respective fields, and I believe it's important to center their work as we develop policy positions.

Do you know any members you'd feel confident could act in these positions?

YES!

Do you have a relationship with any of our working groups?

Electoral and Housing.

What would the role of constituent services staff in your district be?

I hope to have a staff of Central Brooklyn and District 35 residents. Preferably a mix of new folks to government paired with maybe one person who has experience working in city government. With a clear directive that they don't work for me but collectively we all work for the residents of D35 and New York City.

Do you think there is a role for district staff in creating a climate for radical political change?

Absolutely. My staff will share my vision for the district. They will be organizers and we will be organizing the district. I will encourage them to organize fellow staffers from other districts to unionize, which is long overdue.

Will you agree to appear periodically at monthly DSA branch meetings in your district?

Absolutely. I still plan on attending as many of my existing community organizational meetings as possible. I still plan on meeting with tenants in lobbies, going to community board meetings, and actions. I think it's important for constituents to know that their elected officials are real, visible and still care about them and the issues they ran on while campaigning.

Will you join a Democratic Socialist caucus in the City Council?

Yes.

If elected, what are your top 3 legislative priorities?

1. An immediate moratorium on all rezonings for projects that aren't 100% affordable based on local median income, democratically-controlled, permanently affordable, and

- have undergone careful study to assess their racial and environmental impact, stop all privatization of public land, including NYCHA/fund NYCHA repairs
2. Redirect carceral funds into social services
 3. Desegregate/level the playing field of NYC Schools

What committees would you want to join?

Land Use, Housing and Buildings and possibly others.

Who do you think you will support as Speaker of the City Council?

Way too early to tell. But I would lean towards any member who doesn't receive real estate money and doesn't have a history of approving harmful rezonings. And someone who is willing to fight for a moratorium on rezonings. I'll also not be supporting anyone who doesn't support budget justice or retaliates against those who don't fall in line with "leadership" whether they be statewide organizations who peacefully protest demanding reforms or other city council members.

D. COVID-19 POLICY AND DEMANDS

Will you sign onto and advocate for NYC-DSA's [The People's Bailout for New York: A Socialist Response to the COVID-19 Crisis](#)?

Yes. There's also so much we don't know about COVID so I'd like to ensure long-haulers like me have free access to healthcare and counseling in the coming years.

**Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
Making all COVID-19 testing and treatment free and accessible?**

Yes. Access to testing would have helped me and my neighbors access care much more quickly, and the lasting effects of the virus have made the aftermath challenging from a medical and economic standpoint. We have yet to fully grasp the enormity of post-Covid syndrome and the long-term care that survivors will need to overcome these aftereffects.

Permanently housing the homeless using all means available, including emergency rent assistance and seizing vacant property through eminent domain?

Yes. I especially agree about the use of eminent domain. I'd like to see our homeless brothers and sisters housed in the homes of those who abandoned the city during the height of COVID. Also I'd like to see 7a amended to make tenant control of properties seized permanent, and robust use of this law. I will keep fighting for the Housing Access Voucher Program.

Cancelling rent and debt payments for the duration of the crisis?

Yes, plus 3 months afterwards, and passage of the eviction moratorium extension which we can use to usher in the goal of an #EvictionFreeNY.

Reducing policing during the crisis by putting a moratorium on arrests and limiting police enforcement of social distancing rules?

Yes. People who refuse to wear masks are the last people we need enforcing the use of masks.

Blocking ICE from hospitals and courthouses?

Yes. Targeting undocumented folks who are trying to access services to keep them healthy is inhumane.

How will you fight city budget cuts to social services that will be proposed in the wake of COVID-19?

We need to reallocate money from the NYPD budget, tax Wall Street transactions, and tax billionaires and non-resident property owners. Socialists in the City Council must use their visibility to help pass the Budget Equity Act and regain some of the power Cuomo has stolen from the people. Some of these taxes have to be passed at the state level, but that's the point of having a party platform, and where grassroots has got to come hard to force the state to act. Funding political education and organizing in the district will be key to building the grassroots power necessary to resist these cuts.

E. HOUSING AND LAND USE

Do you believe housing is a human right and should be guaranteed to all?

Yes, that fundamental concept is what has brought me to the conclusion that I needed to run for office. We need social housing that prioritizes democratic resident control and permanent affordability. The federal, state, and local government can no longer leave affordable home building to private developers because our interests are not aligned. We need a new housing deal.

What are your proposals for creating deeply and permanently affordable housing for all New Yorkers?

The first step is replacing the current real estate friendly council member with someone who is not, someone who will put our community first. In our platform we propose:

- An immediate moratorium on all rezonings (spot and district-wide)
- Ban on luxury units in low-income/working-class communities which have carried the bulk of the new unaffordable housing built over the past two decades
- A complete overhaul of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program in order to mandate actual affordability
 - 100% of new residential units must be affordable (i.e. rent burden below 30% of income) for the current residents of the neighborhood (averaging out to the neighborhood median income)
 - 100% of new residential units must be permanently rent-stabilized
 - Any “change-of-use” application to allow residential use must reserve 50% of units for homeless New Yorkers or offer even deeper affordability levels than the new MIH
 - Resettlement Project:

- As with the current affordable housing lottery system, preference must be given to current residents of the community district, as well as those who are homeless, living in shelters or otherwise have been displaced from the district
 - No rezoning applications will be accepted from landlords, developers or agents working on their behalf who have a record of fraudulent filings with DHCR/HPD/DOB/DOF (*currently they require a certificate of no harassment, but we should demand more*)
- The federal, city and state governments, must build more social/low-income housing
- Calling and advocating for the end to tax breaks provided to developers
- A complete overhaul of Land Use Review procedures to prevent corruption and prioritize people over profits:
 - Community benefit agreements must be:
 - In writing
 - Publicly accessible
 - Legally binding and transferable from applicant-to-applicant or owner-to-owner
 - Developed with current residents at the table, along with grassroots orgs and tenant unions with years of local history
 - Mandatory racial displacement reports before **ALL** rezonings
 - Less cooperation between the Department of City Planning, Economic Development Corporation (which we should fight to dissolve), and other city agencies with developers about what developers want and more conversations and cooperation with what residents and communities want
 - More clarity in ULURP applications when applicants change while the process is ongoing
- Ban the selling or leasing of city-owned lots/properties to private entities
- Block privatization of public land
 - City-owned lots/properties may not be developed by for-profit developers
 - Non-profit housing developers may bid on contracts to build housing on city-owned land, but are not allowed to purchase the land
 - Any city-owned land on which housing is built must become part of a Community Land Trust (if there isn't one nearby, maybe the city could create one in each community district, and while letting the neighborhood run it, they could set some basic ground rules, like no selling off for profit?) ideally public land banks/CLTs would remain publicly managed whenever possible, and any non-profit chosen to develop or manage social housing must pass rigorous criteria regarding governance, executive pay, and a commitment to an

#EvictionFreeNY (i.e. a history of using alternatives to filing eviction cases to resolve tenant disputes)

- Extend the ULURP process (This process should be longer, harder and more scrutinized)
→ 120 Days for Community Board review
- Divert subsidies currently given to developers and instead:
 - Fully fund code enforcement from The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and The New York City Department of Buildings (DOB), including the 7A program
 - Bring back robust penalties from the New York City Department of Finance for fraudulent filings, e.g. Real Property Income and Expense (RPIE) filings. Confirmed significant violations and/or fraud in one building should trigger an automatic audit/inquiry into the rest of the owner's portfolio
- Create pathways for communities to control their homes through:
 - Social Housing
 - Community Land Trust
 - [Use eminent domain to transfer vacant properties to a community land trust](#), where a governing board composed of long-term residents determines how land is developed.
 - TOPA
 - Mitchell-Lama
 - Public Housing
 - Expropriation

What do you see as the causes of gentrification and displacement? How will you address them as a Council Member?

Decades of weak political leadership that gutted our tenant protections, coupled with no oversight of the agencies designed to protect us. And an over reliance on real estate money to fuel NYS's tax base and political campaigns. Gentrification is caused by people like Laurie Cumbo doing the bidding of BFC Partners, not the white kids seeking affordable housing (like my parents did in the 70s) that Laurie claims are the enemy. I'd also like to revisit 2019's Tenant Anti-Displacement Legislation and see if there are areas where that legislation can be strengthened.

Would you support an immediate moratorium on the sale or lease of all city-owned land to for-profit developers? Would you require that any housing built on public land be 100% permanently affordable to low- and extremely-low income New Yorkers? How would you determine the affordability levels of housing built on public land?

YES! I believe in using neighborhood median income to determine affordability levels. Nobody has better data and analysis than our friends at Community Service Society, and that data will guide these determinations.

What is your assessment of the commercial rent crisis in New York City? How would you address it? What are your positions on the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA—Int 0737-2018) and Commercial Rent Stabilization bill (Int 1796-2019) currently in committee in the City Council?

The rent crisis has caused existing minority/immigrant businesses to close over the past few decades as well as provided barriers for new ones to start. If you walk up Franklin Ave between Carroll Street and Eastern Parkway and do the same on Rogers Ave you will see sidewalks littered with closed storefronts. These could be Black-owned businesses that would help close the racial wealth gap. I support any legislation that allows small business owners to plan for their futures and avoid huge spikes in rent on lease renewals.

What is your assessment of the City's current land use approval process (e.g., ULURP)? How would you advocate changing it?

Not a big fan. The CPC works for developers, not New Yorkers, and as long as the mayor's office is in the hands of real estate money, the DCP does too. We need a total overhaul. Community Board votes need to have teeth, and they need to have structured community outreach – to all the businesses, to all the tenant and block associations, PTAs, churches, community groups, etc. Where are the non-profit, community-led plans in the mold of Cooper Square and the Lower East Side Waterfront? For every neighborhood or area-wide ULURP process there should be several competing public proposals. Additionally the impact assessments must be real, thorough, and long. The current administration has never heard of secondary displacement, while all my neighbors and I have been harassed and offered buyouts. The assessments from DOT and DEP and DOE should turn into proposals of what would be best from their perspectives.

To accomplish such an overhaul we need to find allies in each city agency, and identify a way to do a pilot program during the moratorium on rezonings.

I would insist that DCP and CPC take community plans and concerns more seriously. I would like the process to be much longer. If the city can pick and choose which aspects of a comprehensive community plan to adopt, I don't think "comprehensive" means what they think it means.

Do you support Mayor de Blasio's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH/ZQA) program? What do you think of the strategy of creating affordable housing by incentivizing private developers?

It is a monumental failure, and history will categorize it along with Robert Moses' notorious projects which sacrificed communities of color to the highest bidder and thankfully failed to make New York City less Black and Brown. Private developers have one goal in mind and that's to make as much money as possible. The federal, state, and city government made a huge mistake when they stopped investing in public housing in the 70s and 80s. The 90s and 2000s

have shown us that leaving the responsibility of building truly safe and affordable housing up to capitalists doesn't work for anyone but the capitalists.

Do you support imposing affordability requirements on as-of-right development?

I would like to. We've been brainstorming ideas to counter the often used "If you don't let us build bigger, we'll be forced to build all market-rate" narrative. I would love to have a 1-for-1 rule, in which every luxury condo has to be matched with one low-income unit and every market-rate unit has to be matched with one affordable unit of equal square footage. I would also like to tax the [expletive] out of the land/developers that luxury housing is being built on Red Vienna style.

What role do you think land zoned for manufacturing use should play in New York's economic ecosystem?

Having manufacturing here is a vital part of having a diverse economy, and modern (unionized) manufacturing jobs here have good wages for New Yorkers with a variety of educational backgrounds. Some of that M-zoned land is protected from rezoning because it's in an IBZ, but the rest of it can end up being a target for developers who see an opportunity to buy vacant land relatively cheaply and then get it rezoned for its most profitable uses – luxury housing and retail – which happen to fit in a picture of the city that does not include the people who were forced by redlining to live near manufacturing zones in the first place. For some of those areas, their current zoning might no longer fit the surrounding community's needs, and in that case a change-of-use rezoning should represent a huge opportunity for communities to be able to chart their own future, but too often, the Dept. of City Planning (and the mayor and council) are too focused on what developers envision for the area, and not on what the community actually wants or needs. The M-Crown rezoning process in District 35 has shown that even when a community board tries to make very modest demands in terms of use restrictions (reserving part of the new mixed-zone area for light manufacturing, scaled to be compatible with housing), the City resists any restrictions on developers at every turn. I think that we've reached a point where, if we want to defend NYC's ability to keep (and bring in!) manufacturing jobs, we need to A) overhaul MIH so that any housing created by a change-of-use rezoning is 100% deeply affordable (so that the change is actually worth it to the community), and B) create other new rezoning tools that will give communities more power to plan their own sustainable future. Changing our zoning laws will be tough, but we have to be as serious about our priorities as the developers are about profits, and I think a blanket rezoning moratorium until we get what we need is the only way.

Would you seek to increase or decrease land zoned for manufacturing? Why?

It's hard to make a blanket statement about this because every M-zoned area is different, but the rezoning moratorium would prevent the amount of M-zoned land from increasing or decreasing for now. But once we have our major overhaul of rezoning rules (MIH and greater community control), I would be in favor of adapting manufacturing zones so that they can accommodate modern (light?) manufacturing and also provide actually affordable housing, so that people who have lived in the area for years can continue to do so, and benefit from the new jobs that their neighborhood has attracted. In drafting the bills creating the new rezoning tools, I would

consult with worker cooperatives and vertical farming / urban agriculture proponents to get their input on what conditions would be necessary for the types of 21st-century, sustainable and equitable industries that we want to have in our neighborhoods' futures.

How would you seek to end racist and economically discriminatory and undemocratic rezonings?

By first acknowledging that it's real. I see it every day when I walk outside of my apartment. Also an immediate moratorium on all rezonings coupled with a racial impact study on the effects of the past two decades worth of rezonings. By ensuring all future rezonings take in account past rezonings and their harmful impacts. And most importantly listening to communities whose neighborhoods we are seeking to rezone.

What is/has been the most important land use fight in your district? What position did you or would you advocate for?

For sure it would be the privatization of the Bedford Union Armory. The handing over of our public land to private interests sent a signal to big real estate that the 35th District and its council member were up for sale. You can trace that decision to buildings within walking distance filing for condo conversions, a wave of evictions at Ebbets Field, the rezoning of Franklin Avenue, and the upcoming 960 Franklin Avenue project. I was against the BUA deal, I was against the Franklin Ave. rezoning and I am against the 960 Franklin Avenue project as well. These deals are cut between electeds and real estate interests, shutting the actual neighbors out of the decision-making process, and eventually cutting us out of our own neighborhoods.

Do you support creating a comprehensive plan and/or community-based plans?

I strongly believe that any rezoning without real community input, but instead a courtesy community engagement session, is illegitimate and corrupt. See my proposal above for overhauling the ULURP process. Not every community has a community plan, but those that do should be taken into account and weighed heavily. At the end of the day it will be the residents, if they're fortunate enough to not be displaced, who will have to live with these decisions, not electeds, not real estate developers, and not members of DCP or CPC. Nothing for us, without us, is for us.

Additionally, by overhauling MIH, we will be making legitimate working-class affordability a baked-in given for any rezoning, so community plans will have more leverage to make other additional demands.

How would you identify and obtain funds to rectify the chronic underfunding of maintenance and capital repairs in NYCHA buildings?

Some of this would have to be done on the state level. Stock transfer tax. Pied-à-terre tax. Enforcement including financial penalties on white collar crimes, especially those perpetrated by real estate.

Will you commit to ending the sale or leasing of NYCHA land and air rights?

Yes. Privatization of public green space that belongs to low-income Black and Brown residents is racist; turning it into luxury condos is classist. And forcing public property into private hands

under the guise of "budget deficits for repairs" when the same real estate interests got us the budget cuts in the first place is peak Neoliberal white people (with an assist from Black and brown electeds selling out our people).

Do you support the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program? What would you do to increase tenants' democratic control?

RAD is also another program that says the very industry which defunded public housing through lobbying and campaign contributions is now the right industry to get NYCHA out of its capital deficit. As a tenant organizer, I know that services and legal compliance in a unit are more dependent on who manages the property as opposed to whose name is on the bank note. RAD effectively removes the property from the city's control and trusts that slumlords (who can't even keep up with their existing stock of deteriorating buildings) will decide to do right by tenants this time around. It removes hard-won protections, like oversight by a federal monitor or the right to sue, that were won by tenants and advocates under various landmark decisions.

It might work to establish a system similar to a mutual housing association where a tenant board has decision-making and veto power over what the private landlord does, and that could be imposed on properties that have already turned over. Furthermore, I think we have to figure out how to prevent any more conversions and stop subsidizing landlord profits off the backs of low-income tenants.

Do you support the expansion of the Family Re-Entry Program to allow people coming home from incarceration the ability to live in public housing?

Yes. Unstable housing upon reentry is a main driver of re-offence. It is totally insane that we have required families of the incarcerated to choose between their housing and their children, siblings, parents, etc. Residents with past convictions have already paid their debt to society.

What reforms would you advocate in all agencies that touch on land use decision-making, such as the Department of City Planning (DCP), the City Planning Commission (CPC), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Buildings (DOB), the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) or any other relevant bodies, to remove the influence of the real estate industry from agency decision making?

For starters I would like to install a rule that prohibits anyone who leaves one of these city agencies to take a job as a real estate hack from lobbying any city or state governmental agency for at least 10 years. The city should make a concerted effort to hire urban planners with at least as much tenant and community organizing experience as they have in academic work. This goes double for the appointed heads of these agencies, who set the priorities for all plans. These agencies all believe that their purpose is to make developers' plans just acceptable enough to get by. Therefore reform will require both a sweep of corrupt civil servants and a change of the pro-landlord/developer culture that is rampant.

How will you protect public parks and green spaces from privatization by developers and conservancies?

I would advocate for everyday citizens to do what I'm currently doing and sue your rep and government if needed. As a council member I would work with every neighborhood and community board that's interested to create community plans like the one Crown Heights created to protect the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. A moratorium on sales of city-owned property to developers would also help protect existing green space and make it easier to create new ones.

Will you support the following as a City Council member: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

Increased funding to enforce recently passed rent regulation laws?

Yes. This will be especially important in the next few years as the city tries to recover from the pandemic. Though many aspects of rent regulation, including enforcement, are dealt with at the state level, HPD and the local courts have some jurisdiction over important elements of rent stabilization.

Vastly increasing funding and support for democratically controlled low-income housing, such as Community Land Trusts (CLTs)?

Yes, and funding that prioritizes keeping land in the public domain whenever possible, followed by non-profit, mission-driven orgs and never directing funding to for-profit developers.

Increased funding for enforcement of fair housing laws?

Yes. The NYC Commission on Human Rights could take on a stronger enforcement role.

The aggressive use of city programs and eminent domain to take ownership of distressed properties and transfer them to community control?

Yes please!

Removing all city funding from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and eliminating all of the EDC's power in relation to land use, planning, and economic development?

Yes, as should any long-term Black Brooklynite who has seen what they've done to downtown Brooklyn.

Lobbying for the repeal of 421-a and redirecting money to permanent, non-profit, cooperatively-owned, or public affordable housing programs?

Yes. The state shouldn't be providing any incentives to any developer who isn't building permanent 100% low-income or affordable housing.

Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist land use platform?

Hell yes!

F. EXPANDING AND DEEPENING OUR DEMOCRACY

How would you seek to increase democratic involvement and representation within your district?

I understand why people who look like me and grew up in this community are disillusioned with politics and politicians. We've been lied to, disappointed and failed so many times, by so many folks and that's why we don't vote. I would like to start by showing people the small things an elected can do for them. Street lights, trash collection, speed bumps and road repairs. Then doing other things like using my office as a mediation space. I plan on using my office and position to continue to amplify the voices, concerns and demands of everyday Brooklynites. I will also sponsor registration drives. Advocate for no-excuse absentee voting, ending of felony disenfranchisement, reinvest in civics in schools. Basically anyway that I can demonstrate that our government belongs to the people and that electeds have a duty to serve them I will.

How do you view the role of the Council, particularly in comparison to the Mayor, Comptroller, and Public Advocate?

I think the Council should be a check on the Mayor. I wasn't a fan of the first few years of the de Blasio administration, when the Council pretty much did whatever he wanted with no pushback. The Council and its members should have their own agenda and vision for their respective districts and NYC. If run correctly, the position of Comptroller can be useful. The Public Advocate is completely useless, we basically pay a city official until they can find another job in government.

What are your thoughts on community boards and their role in city governance?

I think that they should be given more than an advisory role, especially in land use decisions, because they are usually more aligned with the CD's residents' preferences and needs. But this change should be accompanied by measures to make them even more representative of the community (i.e. serious efforts to bring tenants onto boards at a rate that matches the district's make-up), and to facilitate long-term board members mentoring newer board members so they are equipped with the institutional knowledge necessary to do committee work (especially land use) when current board members reach their term limits.

Do you want to change how the boards are selected and/or operate? If so, how?

I don't like the fact that BP's pick board members, especially when you have a corrupt one like we do in Brooklyn. But until we have an alternative method, I would like to see the BP pick 15, the Council member pick 15 and the rest go to long-term residents (preferably to tenants) perhaps through a lottery system among applicants. On my end, I would encourage activists within District 35 to apply for CB seats, and I would pledge to appoint people who are committed to preventing displacement, especially tenants.

What interests or communities would you try to represent with your appointments?

Anyone who has been to more than a handful of CB meetings knows that homeowners are over-represented, in both membership and attendance. And speaking for CB9, ethnically their representation is really skewed in a direction that doesn't represent the community. While tenant and homeowner interests overlap in areas, there are also areas where they don't. I would try to increase the participation of long-term Black tenants, especially from our larger housing complexes like Ebbets Field, Tivoli Towers and NYCHA.

What are your thoughts on nonpartisan city elections?

Party machine politics have kept New Yorkers from having real choices for a long time, and are probably responsible for our terrible turnout rates; voters don't feel like their vote matters. Nonpartisan city elections sound like a good idea in principle, but I think it would depend on what exactly that means: is it a CA-style jungle primary with a runoff between the top 2? Or would it be a plurality of the votes in November? Would there be any limit to the number of candidates? While I want to undo the major parties' chokehold on access to elected office, I would also be concerned if our electeds got their seats without demonstrating a wide base of support. I think nonpartisan city elections would need to be accompanied (or even preceded) by making the Board of Elections nonpartisan, and increasing campaign finance regulation. Candidates from smaller parties or independents are never going to get a fair shot until the people running the elections in the first place are not political appointees from only 2 parties (50% of whom are Republicans, which is insane in a place like Brooklyn), so the nonpartisan election process would need to be really well thought out.

Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

Increasing the public matching funds ratio for New York City elections?

Yes.

Requiring all Council Members to participate in Participatory Budgeting and expanding funding for the program?

Yes. The program should also be slowly expanded to include operating budgets as well as capital ones.

Offering all City residents the right to vote in City elections, regardless of immigration status or prior felony conviction?

Yes. Citizens with prior convictions have paid their debt and should have a voice in voting for policy platforms that would obviate whatever led to their offence. Immigrants live and work in our city and they should have a say in the systems that affect them.

G. LABOR

What is your relationship to unions and the labor movement in New York City?

I grew up in a union household and one of my first jobs ever was a union job in the BPL. I have also been a union worker in a supermarket. Workers and tenants are two faces of the working class. There are many union workers in Crown Heights Tenant Union. CHTU is inspired by the labor, Civil Rights, Black Power, and immigrant movements of New York. I've never broken union lines and most recently joined striking CAMBA workers as they protested their bosses refusal to negotiate with them.

What would you do to support the rights of workers to form unions, and to expand unionization in New York City?

If workers in my district are striking I'll join them on the picket lines. All city contractors would have to agree to card check neutrality as a condition to gaining city contracts. End outsourcing of city services and bring them back into the public sphere where they would be unionized. Municipalization of non public sector services.

What minimum salary do you promise to pay your staffers? How does this reflect your ideas of what a living wage should be, and who should have access to the political system?

\$20 an hour. I will tie my staffers' salaries to the living wage. I will of course support collective bargaining efforts that increase this amount.

How should New York respond to the Supreme Court's Janus v. AFSCME case?

This case dealt a massive blow to unions' ability to raise money not only for political action but also for their organizing work, which is awful not only for workers' ability to collectively bargain, but also for the left's ability to counter the massive amounts of political spending by corporations. While New York City or NY State can't exactly undo this exact harm, we can respond by finding other ways to even the political playing field between corporations and working-class New Yorkers (e.g. more campaign finance reform), and we can respond by supporting union labor and unionization efforts in NYC. NYS should repeal the Taylor law.

How can we ensure fair conditions for people working in New York City's gig economy?

- Fight for higher minimum wage (although city can't set it independently of the state)
- The City has made advances on labor conditions (e.g. paid leave), so we need to enforce it aggressively
- In some sectors there are specific ways the city can limit the ability of gig-reliant companies to dilute the power of unionized workers: cracking down on illegal airbnbs has a positive effect for hotel workers, and limiting the number of Ubers allowed in the city has reduced the harm to taxi drivers and raised the wages of the Uber drivers themselves. I support these sector-specific policies and would seek out more.
- We need to support unionization efforts among gig workers, and in other work categories that make up the "precariat."
- Tie licensing for city-licensed businesses (like restaurants, bars) to proof of working conditions

Will you unconditionally support any striking workers in New York, even if their actions violate legal restrictions?

Absolutely; without reservation. The strike is workers' most powerful tool for guaranteeing a better, dignified life for themselves and their families, there should be no restrictions on workers' right to strike.

**Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
Raising the local NYC wage beyond \$15?**

Yes.

What do you think the minimum wage should be?

\$20 per hour. Minimum wages should be tied to inflation and should apply, without exception, across the state and in every business, small or large, and in every industry.

City legislation on work schedule stability?

Yes.

City legislation to require paid vacation for all workers?

Yes.

Banning unpaid internships (including in your City Council office)?

Yes.

The right of City Council staff to unionize?

Yes.

Card check neutrality?

Yes, workers should not have to jump through hoops to join a union and the boss should have no say over whether workers are part of a union or not.

H. DECARCERATION

What is your view on the role of police in New York City public schools?

Out. I know times are a little different now, but my sister, brothers and I all went to public school from K-12 and we never had police officers in our schools. Our children deserve to feel like children not inmates. Also to push back against the false narrative that "school safety officers are often POC, while guidance counselors, social workers, etc, are often not": I personally know plenty of Black guidance counselors and social workers. I even have a few in my family.

What steps would you support taking to end the "school-to-prison pipeline"?

- Provide more funding for free tutoring services
- Provide more mental health professionals for our students this includes more:
 - Guidance Counselors
 - Social Workers
 - Psychologists
 - Kids can't learn when they're in emotional distress. Ideally, these professionals would help teachers develop trauma-informed curriculum and support teachers in handling the manifestations of trauma in the classroom (often described by people as "misbehavior")
- Demilitarize our [schools](#) and end/defund the school-to-prison [pipeline](#)
 - Remove NYPD officers from public schools

- The starting salary for an NYPD officer is \$42,000, after five years \$82,000, imagine a city in which we used that money to invest in:
 - Smaller class sizes
 - Raise teacher salaries
 - Implement [restorative](#) discipline practices in schools
 - Invest in mentorship programs

Do you support reducing the NYPD budget? If so, by how much? If not, why?

Yes, unlike Laurie Cumbo. I've lived in NYC my entire life. I realize that their 2020 budget didn't grow to 10.9 billion overnight, but instead accumulated over decades. I envision myself cutting as much as possible every year that I'm in office, diverting those funds to the same communities that have been overpoliced for decades, into our schools, housing, healthcare, job training/jobs. This is crucial when Black male unemployment is twice as high as our white male counterparts. People and neighborhoods who have those things are less likely to need and have police interactions. Also, let's be honest, at this point the NYPD is little more than a jobs program for Staten Island and Long Island.

Would you support a hiring freeze and reductions in the NYPD force?

Yes. Not only is their budget bloated, so are their ranks. This city is living under an occupying force, with numbers not seen even during the 70s when crime was far worse. We need to ferret out the whyte supremacists who have found a nurturing home in the NYPD; those who have been protected for decades by 50-A; the cowards that can hide behind a badge. Fire w/o pension those who have multiple complaints against them. We also need to protect the female officers who are [routinely denied promotions](#). Police are supposed to protect citizens, however, the NYPD showed us time and time again that it does not care about Black Lives.

Do you see an armed police force as a primary or a necessary institution to foster public safety? If not, what concrete policies or programs would you like to see as an alternative? How would you hope to begin moving towards them?

No I do not. I'd like to see more investments in community anti-violence orgs like Save Our Streets Brooklyn. I'd like to see a re-investment in Richard Green's Crown Heights Youth Collective which did amazing work throughout southern Crown Heights after the riots.

Do you support shifting most or all of the police budget to other purposes or agencies?

Yes. I think every year for the next forty years, we should move as much out of the carceral budget as possible and infuse it into our most needy communities for schools, housing, medical care, etc.

Would you support shifting noise complaints, mental health crises, and most other conflict handling currently in NYPD's purview to trained social workers without weapons?

Yes. Ideally, some of the money we remove from the budget would be used for early intervention/counseling/treatment to help New Yorkers who may have mental issues before they reach a crisis point.

Do you support returning traffic enforcement to the Department of Transit?

Yes. I support peeling off as many departments from the NYPD as possible.

In general, will you commit to reforms that decrease the funding and size of the NYPD, rather than reforms that increase its size and funding (even in the form of trainings, body cameras, etc.?)

Yes. I think our long-term goal should be for a city without a police force. I realize from some of my personal conversations over the past few weeks and months that many of my elders don't share my vision. I think it's my job and everyone else who wants to see that vision come true, to not badger, berate or dismiss them, but rather help them envision that future.

Do you support a “duty to intervene” law, to require police to intervene if they see another officer harming or risking a member of the public, with a failure to intervene a fireable offense?

Absolutely. I would also like to see failure to intervene not just be a fireable offense but also coupled with an accomplice charge to any officer who fails to intervene. NO MORE CAROL HORNES. We should also pass legislation that punishes officers who retaliate against whistleblowers.

Would you support mandating that all NYPD misconduct settlements are paid for out of the agency’s existing or following year’s budget or through offending officers’ pensions, rather than paid by the Taxpayers?

I think police officers should have personal liability insurance. From 2015 to 2019 NYC taxpayers spent \$119 million, \$280 million, \$335 million, \$230 million, and \$69 million settling complaints against the NYPD. This practice of the taxpayers paying for officers' bad behavior, incompetence and brutality has got to stop.

Do you support attrition of NYPD through aggressive investigation and firings of officers found to have participated in unprovoked brutality in the ongoing protests?

Why limit it to the protest? With this summer's release of NYPD service records we know who the “bad apples” are and should be actively fighting for their removal and termination of their pensions.

Would you support making covering name and badge number during any civilian interaction a fireable offense?

Yes. I would also add failure to identify themselves if asked by a civilian and failure to activate their body cam during any interaction in which deadly force is used as fireable offenses.

Do you consider yourself a prison abolitionist? If so, how will that affect how you legislate in the Council?

Yes, I think our carceral system doesn't work. We need to find new ways to rehabilitate folks and reintegrate them back into society. I won't support the building of any new jails.

Should NYC build borough-based jails to compensate for the closure of Rikers? If not, what should be done?

No. It will just spread the problem out. Besides, those jails won't be built on time or on-budget. DeBlasio is just passing the buck. Offenders need rehabilitation: education, therapy, employment. Yes it sounds utopian and I'm not sure what it would look like, but more, smaller jails are not the answer.

What role should police play in regard to the homeless?

The same role they should play with every other NYer – protecting and serving them.

**Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
Not building any new jails, prisons, or detention centers in New York City?**

Yes, see above.

Significantly reducing the number of people in NYC jails and prisons (beyond the criminal justice reforms already passed)?

Yes. We should be working towards a society in which we incarnate fewer people.

Creating a city bail voucher program to ensure that no one is held in a city jail for lack of funds (the proposal is outlined on pg. 14 of [No New Jails policy packet](#))?

Yes, except for the most heinous crimes, like rape and murder.

Ending or dramatically curtailing the practice of cash bail entirely?

End. No more Kaliels.

A ban on the use of facial recognition software by law enforcement agencies?

Yes. Technology with a track record of implicit bias should not be used.

A ban on partnerships and data sharing with private surveillance companies and tools, such as Amazon Ring?

Yes. Landlords in our district have been trying to harass tenants out of their buildings by restricting visits of friends and family with facial recognition security systems and key fobs. It's outrageous and predictable.

A ban on the use of predictive policing algorithms?

Yes. Algorithms created by mostly white men to capture mostly Black people shouldn't even be a part of the conversation around policing at this point.

An elected and empowered Civilian Complaint Review Board?

Yes. Give it TEETH.

Can we achieve police accountability through the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If so, how? If not, how can we hold police accountable?

Not as it's currently constituted. We need to have a total board elected by citizens that doesn't rely on NYPD approval for disciplinary recommendations.

Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a platform for decarceration and community safety and work to implement those goals while in office?

Yes. This should be done in consultation with abolitionist groups, community violence prevention specialists, mental health experts and constituencies that will be most-impacted by the changes we enact.

I. SOCIALIST FEMINISM

Are you a feminist?

Yes.

What does feminism mean to you?

Feminist: a person who believes in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes." -- [Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#)

For me it boils down to the fact that I treat my nieces, the exact same way as I treat my nephew. I treat my sister the same way I treat my brothers. I treat every male and female I've ever supervised or mentored at work the same way. I try to treat everyone the way I want to be treated as a fellow human being.

What would you do to address high rates of violence against transgender women, particularly trans women of color?

Violence against transgender women of color is a human rights crisis. Sadly, it is not new—from Marsha P. Johnson and many whose names we do not know,—but now the mainstream media is finally acknowledging these aren't isolated incidents, but widespread. According to the [Human Rights Campaign](#), there have been 26 murders of Trans women, a majority of whom are Black. Unfortunately, I'm sure that number is actually much higher. How does one confront transphobia? I would start by educating the police and make solving these cases a priority. Oftentimes they go unsolved because police don't dedicate resources to solving these crimes because their mandate is to protect the property of rich white people.

I would also allocate resources to community centers and social programs to help the transgender community, many of whom have been shunned by their families, thus are unhoused and find it hard to find employment and sometimes resort to sex work. This means transgender BIPOC are one of the most vulnerable populations in the world.

However, as a cis-het man, I would defer to those with lived experience, such as my opponent Alejandra Caraballo.

What would you do in office to address the problem of sexual harassment and assault against women in precarious situations, whether in housing, immigration, or low-wage work, that imperils their livelihood, homes, or presence in this country?

Hire more women into positions of power. Ideally allow women to build and run systems to ensure that victims of domestic violence can trust they will be heard and helped by city government. Offer mental health care to those who cause harm as well as survivors of harm.

**Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
Funding free preschool, childcare and maternity/paternity leave?**

Yes. Our paid family leave policies in this country are despicable. The [PEW Research Center](#) found that out of 41 developed countries, the U.S. is alone in its lack of paid parental leave.

Ending "religious exemptions" to bans on discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity?

Yes, of course, as well as eliminating the exemption to provide birth control coverage. There shouldn't be exemptions to human rights. Hate crimes can not and should not fall under the Freedom of Religion article of our Constitution, which was written by a bunch of racist white men 400 years ago. Burn it down and start over.

I also think churches should be taxed. Don't get me started on the NRA.

Decriminalizing sex work?

YES. Hell, legalize it. Make it safe by providing access to healthcare. It's the world's oldest profession and thus should be treated with respect. Destigmatize it and provide legal protections. Even the new Democratic party VP candidate [supports](#) decriminalization (after originally opposing it).

J. HEALTHCARE JUSTICE

What are your thoughts on [NYC Care](#), or a similar citywide program, that would expand healthcare coverage to the uninsured? How would you guarantee poor and working-class people have access to comprehensive health care services that are free at the point of care, such as reproductive care, mental health, dental, vision, and primary care?

NYC Care is a good first step, and Cuomo shouldn't be cutting Medicaid when we have thousands of newly uninsured people, on top of the thousands we already had pre-COVID, but the most important thing we should be fighting for is Medicare For All.

How would you guarantee poor and working class people have access to reproductive care?

This should also be free at the point of care, so women can make decisions based on circumstances that don't include ability to pay, either for medication/procedures themselves or for the doctor's visit. It's ridiculous that men can pick up a free condom anywhere in the city, but women have to jump through hoops in order to have any control at all over whether/when they get pregnant.

Would you support building safe injection sites? If so, where? How would you expand harm reduction programming in NYC?

I would lobby the new Speaker to follow through on the original commitment to fund VOCAL-NY's new location which will provide a much-needed space for folks to practice harm reduction while receiving comprehensive treatment and political education. We have to help this constituency by reducing stigma and lifting up their voices so they can gain some political power. Harm reduction works.

Will you oppose the expansion of policing and incarceration into NYC hospitals, including the currently proposed jail beds?

Yes.

**Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why):
Health care as a human right for all people?**

Yes.

Fully-funding public hospitals/community health centers and preventing the closing of any public health care institutions?

Yes. In central Brooklyn we need to start a conversation about building a new world class hospital. So many of my neighbors (the ones who can afford insurance) are forced to use urgent care centers as their only access point to medical care. The systematic closure of Brooklyn hospitals is how we ended up losing thousands of lives to Covid-19; Cuomo's cuts to Medicaid are how we ended up using duct tape and plastic shower curtains to keep patients isolated from one another at SUNY Downstate. We can't let folks forget that this was all preventable.

New Yorkers' rights to reproductive health care, including abortion without restriction and on demand?

Yes.

K. EDUCATION

Would you support New York City and State fulfilling the promise of the Campaign For Fiscal Equity by increasing funding to public schools by \$4 billion, most of which is owed to districts with high percentages of Black, Brown and low-income students?

Yes, this money has been owed for far too many years and should be paid now (with interest).

What is your stance on uneven PTA fundraising across schools? How would you address this problem?

This dovetails perfectly with the question below regarding desegregation. The fact that our schools are racially segregated is the root cause of inequity in PTA fundraising. I propose that any funds a school raises should go into a pool to be divided equally amongst all schools citywide. But I hope that it also goes without saying that private fundraising cannot be the only strategy for saving our public schools, since public schools in gentrifying areas have seen a catastrophic drop in per-student funding.

Do you support Mayoral control of City schools? If so, why? If not, what alternative do you propose?

The NYC DOE is the largest school district in the country and as it is very different from any other districts in the state so it should not be run by the Governor. But I'm not sure mayoral control is the answer either. I know NYCDSCA official position is to end Mayoral control and have elected CSB's instead. I'd have to learn more about how that would work, but that also might be a viable solution. I would also want to hear from parents and educators, especially those with knowledge of the history of community control here in Central Brooklyn.

What is your position on the City's high school admissions procedures?

We need to abolish SHSAT. We need to work on making all of our high schools truly excellent, whether they are specialized or not, instead of having parents spending thousands of dollars on test prep and students stressing for a few spots in a handful of schools every year. Specialization should be an option for kids who have a specific area of interest they want to pursue, rather than being a code word for "the only schools in the city that have adequate resources."

How will you fight to desegregate the City's school system?

Desegregating schools won't happen overnight; we need buy-in from teachers and parents alike. Perhaps providing high quality (and frequent) antiracist professional development for teachers would be a starting point. I would take my guidance from groups like Teens Take Charge, New York Appleseed, and IntegrateNYC who have been doing this work and have a knowledge base that far exceeds mine.

Do you support integrating NYC public schools based on race and socioeconomic status?

Yes. I support making our public schools just as integrated as our public work sectors. We call for the abolishing of SHSAT in our platform and share a lot of the same bullet points that are in NYCDSCA's Education for All - Racial Justice section. So if endorsed I would look forward to working with my comrades who put together that platform. I also again would seek guidance from orgs and activists who have been doing the work. De Blasio refuses to call it "integration" because he doesn't want to get into the thorny issue of how "school choice" has failed to fix segregation, because he's too scared to piss off white parents who think that they like diversity but only on their own terms.

Toward this end, do you support the elimination of academic screening, which entrenches educational stratification in NYC by sorting students largely according to their education privileges?

Yes.

Should "School Resource Officers" (i.e. cops in schools) exist?

No. And that doesn't mean simply renaming them and changing their uniform – we don't need armed goons interacting with our children.

Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

Making CUNY tuition free?

Yes.

Funding CUNY to meet adjuncts' demand of \$7,000 per course (they are currently paid poverty wages)?

Yes.

A ban on local funding (including tax advantages on income and property) for universities that allow admissions based on "legacy" and similar criteria?

Yes.

Limits on the expansion of charter schools in the City?

Yes. I also support transitioning charter schools back into public schools.

Proper access to secular education for Yeshiva students?

Yes. This is an unpopular opinion locally with the Chabad community but I believe we can change that with political education and genuine engagement.

Expanding the City's 3K program to all parts of the City?

Yes.

A citywide prohibition on exclusionary school discipline (i.e. suspensions and expulsions)?

Yes. We need restorative justice not punitive justice. We need to teach conflict resolution in every grade so that we all learn many tools to address conflict. Any citywide discipline policy must apply equally to district and charter schools (which have a history of higher suspension rates). We need trauma-informed disciplinary policy that refuses to abandon those in most need of help and we need to fund that help stat.

Removing screenings for schools and ensuring minimum academic diversity thresholds?

Yes.

Enacting a comprehensive redistricting of public schools to ensure racial integration?

Yes. In NYC most of our public workplaces are diverse and our public schools should be the same.

Fighting for the funding owed to NYC public schools by New York State?

Yes. I'd love to connect with AQE to learn about the work done in this area.

Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist education platform?

Yes.

L. ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Due to lack of affordable options many households in New York City do not have internet access. What should the City be doing to guarantee that all residents have low-cost, high-speed internet access, without increasing the market dominance and consolidation of a handful of internet service providers?

The city should be working with the state to provide free public internet to all New Yorkers. It's time to stop the cartel monopoly that cable providers have built for themselves. Also Optimum/Altice (or whatever they're calling themselves lately) was the only local provider that cut off utilities during the pandemic.

Would you support increased transparency for all economic development deals entered into by the City, including:

Banning non-disclosure agreements in economic development negotiations?

Yes. Also the public should have access to all those records without having to FOIA.

Implementing a “database of deals” to track the economic development budget, and company-specific reporting on relevant data re. jobs created and other promised returns on public investment?

Yes.

Better delimitation of the geographic areas eligible for incentives?

Yes.

Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
Progressively raising the City's income tax for higher tax brackets?

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Common ownership of natural resources of New York State and any technologies or innovations developed with public funding as well as expansion of employee stock ownership plans, co-determination, community ownership, municipalization, and nationalization?

Yes.

New York City home rule to establish new taxes for local revenue generation?

Yes. Yes. Yes. Home rule would also allow us to set our own minimum wage like other expensive cities (e.g. San Francisco).

A cap on total subsidies and tax breaks corporations can receive from the City?

Yes.

How can City Council help close the racial wealth gap in New York City? How can City Council help create more and better jobs for people of color?

By investing in people of color. Invest in our schools. Invest in our neighborhoods. Invest in our businesses. With so many vacant storefronts we should partner with the state and federal

government to help create Black and immigrant business districts. Invest in BIPOC homeownership, so that BIPOC families can create generational wealth. Invest for once in all of the systems and structures that have allowed white Americans to live the “American dream” but the rest of us have been shut out of.

Do you support efforts to found a public bank for the city that would prioritize neighborhood-led development and investments that benefit poor and working class New Yorkers?

Yes. 25% of New York City residents are unbanked or underbanked, left out in the cold by a corporate banking system that forces them to rely on an extractive system of cash-checking businesses for access to banking services. By investing New York City’s millions of dollars in a public bank system and amplifying the efforts of existing credit unions, we can support communities, not megacorporations.

Do you support postal banking -- the provision of low-cost, consumer-driven financial services via the Postal Service?

Yes. And it needs to happen pretty much immediately if we want to save the Postal Service.

M. IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

What existing connections do you have with immigrant-led groups?

The Crown Heights Tenant Union has partnered with "Close the Camps" as part of the #CancelRent campaign because housing justice is immigrant justice. Also most of my neighbors are regular church goers and have personal connections with orgs like WIADCA and have offered to make those connections whenever I'm ready.

Are there specific immigrant communities in your district whose needs you plan to address in office? What are key issues for these communities?

For sure there is a strong immigrant West Indian community and their first generation American children. We face many of the same issues that Black communities all over the city face including: lack of economic opportunity, lack of truly affordable housing, lack of access to healthcare, over policing, underfunded and overcrowded schools, food insecurity, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, lack of social services, etc. Also in and around Ebbets Field there are many undocumented African immigrants who are afraid to assert their right to safe and affordable housing because landlords like Fieldbridge Associates threaten them with deportation, which we know they aren't allowed to do.

How do you plan to use your office to provide constituent services to immigrants in your district?

All constituents should feel comfortable calling or walking into my office to connect with constituent services. This means ensuring they can communicate with our office in their own language and that we be proactive in educating them about their rights so they feel empowered to advocate for themselves and their neighbors. I also want to use the office as a mediation space

for some of the racial, generational, and socio-economic issues that pop up in our diverse district.

What is your plan for language access on your campaign?

We currently have multiple members of our team who are multilingual. We plan to translate our website into Haitian Creole, Arabic, French and Spanish. We also plan to be phone and text banking in these languages. Saint Francis De Sales School for the Deaf is in the middle of the district so we are reaching out to them about how to reach voters who are hard of hearing, and what their policy priorities are.

What steps do you think are necessary to establish stronger Sanctuary City protections in New York City?

I think our current protections are pretty strong, but there seem to be few enforcement mechanisms to ensure city employees and residents refrain from putting our immigrant neighbors in danger. I'm always willing to hear from and be advised by activists and organizers on the frontlines.

What steps do you think are necessary to end Broken Windows and Community policing, which disproportionately targets Black and brown working-class people, including many undocumented immigrants, and puts immigrants at immediate risk by virtue of fingerprinting, the data for which is automatically shared with DHS?

Be honest: The first step is for us to admit that it doesn't work. I've lived through broken windows, anti-crime units, and stop and frisk. Each one addressed the symptom and not the disease.

Early intervention: The second step is to stop putting young people on the course to the penitentiary. We can start by getting police out of schools. Stop labeling kids that act up as "bad" and instead try to find the root cause of their behavior and intervene as soon as possible, this can be achieved by students having access to more social and mental health professionals on school grounds.

Idle hands: The third step is making sure young people have something to do like summer employment, paid internships, and mentorship programs.

A real second chance: Let's truly give those who have served their time the opportunity to reintegrate with society. Let's get rid of policies that preclude them from access to housing. Perhaps provide tax incentives to businesses that hire felons.

Invest in Black people: Invest in our schools. Invest in our neighborhoods. Invest in our Black owned businesses. Invest in Black homeownership, invest in us over the next forty years like you've invested in the carceral system the last forty years and we'll no longer need heavy-handed policing policies.

Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

Legislation prohibiting the use of City resources, personnel or funds to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law, such as traffic enforcement for ICE vehicles?

Yes. They have their own budget and resources and should be defunded at the federal level.

Legislation extending voting rights in municipal elections to immigrant New Yorkers?

Yes.

Legislation strengthening the enforcement of worker misclassification laws, particularly around contractors, along with funding for a low-wage immigrant worker defense fund?

Yes.

Increased, and permanent funding in the New York City budget for public defense, in both immigration and criminal proceedings?

Yes. Also for RTC we want full funding for all zip codes citywide as a guarantee (in other words, no one can write away that money during budget negotiations), no income threshold (so it's universal), and passage of the Power to Organize bill, which funds trusted grassroots orgs to build tenant associations and inform tenants of their rights under the RTC law. We also want the program to actually be called "Right to Counsel" instead of the very boring "Universal Access" that it is right now. Representation in criminal, immigration and housing proceedings should be a true right.

Increased city funding for social services accessible to all residents, regardless of citizenship status, to counteract the impacts of Trump's "public charge rule" and immigrants' exclusion from COVID-19 federal aid?

Yes. When one of us gets sick we all get sick, and we are all harmed when our immigrant neighbors are terrified to get help.

Increased funding and resources for city agencies, hospitals and communities to develop policies and training for staff on know-your-rights information, both for the immigrant populations they serve and for themselves to exercise their rights to prevent ICE access & arrests?

Yes.

N. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND TRANSPORTATION

Do you endorse [DSA's Ecosocialist Green New Deal Guiding Principles](#)?

Yes.

Would you commit to developing an ecosocialist platform for your campaign in close consultation with NYC-DSA's Ecosocialist Working Group and its allies?

Absolutely.

Will you advance the goal of a publicly owned, democratically controlled energy system for New York in office?

Advocating for this is in our platform.

Will you support unionization for all new green jobs and a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers, protecting them by providing them with job transition programs, retraining and income security?

Yes.

Do you support new development in zone 1 and 2 emergency evacuation zone floodplains? Explain why or why not?

I do not. I think we should spend the next twenty years developing coastal resilience solutions.

What is your stance on powering NYC with Canadian hydropower?

I'm all for clean energy, however I don't know a lot about this issue; I vaguely recall reading a story about this last year and seeing a connection between this deal and Blackstone, and anyone involved in housing knows that Blackstone is a bad actor. I would need to do more research and talk to activists and organizers who have been doing this work before committing. Happy to be advised by comrades in the Ecosocialist WG.

What is your stance on City control of the subways?

For it with guaranteed state funding. It's absurd that that Governor has authority over the city's mass transit. He lives 180 miles away and doesn't ride the subway. Maybe Andy Byford wouldn't have quit twice if he hadn't needed to fight with someone who doesn't fundamentally understand the problems our city transit is facing. Also we don't need 500 more transit cops; we need to tell the governor that he needs to house the homeless.

Do you support fully funding the MTA capital plan and reducing or eliminating fares? What role do you believe the City Council can have in achieving this?

Yes, and we should be working towards a society where public transit is free. City Council should study and find alternative ways to raise revenue to offset the cost. Advocate at the state level for the stock transfer tax and the Pied-à-terre tax.

What are your primary modes of transportation? How will you commute to work at the council?

Before the pandemic hit I used mass transit to get from my home in Crown Heights to Midtown Manhattan. When traveling in Brooklyn I usually walk. I, like hundreds if not thousands of NYers, have been trying to find a bike during the pandemic and I'm currently on numerous waitlists. I would hope to be biking to work whenever my health and the weather allow it.

How do you plan to achieve the City's goals of zero waste by 2030 when the city has slashed funding for organics collection?

We need to reinstate that funding ASAP, and in the meantime support other organics collection streams such as farmers markets, community gardens, non-profits, private companies, and personal DIY's.

Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
Decarbonizing the power grid?

Yes.

City funding for community land trusts and programs modeled after Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC)?

Yes, but this time with permanent affordability!

Decreasing carbon footprints of existing buildings through retrofits, prioritizing and fully funding NYCHA?

Yes.

Centering and working with front-line, working-class communities of color while developing and implementing green infrastructure?

Yes.

Stopping all proposed new fossil fuel infrastructure, as well as drawing down all existing fossil fuel infrastructure in the next decade?

Yes.

Divesting City pension funds from all fossil fuel industries?

Yes.

Framing low-carbon public transit as a right and making the subway, buses, and transportation system free in the city?

Yes, provided the state will keep our funding intact.

Increasing green, transit-oriented infrastructure, such as bike lanes and bus lanes, even if at the expense of parking and extra lanes for private motorists??

As long as the new infrastructure is expanded in a way that makes it actually feasible for communities pushed to the literal margins of the transit system to live and work without cars, then yes.

Limiting the use of rideshare programs that flout worker rights and city regulations?

The city has already demonstrated that it is possible to put a cap on the number of Uber cars that could flood the rideshare market and to mandate a certain minimum hourly wage for drivers, and I'm open to be advised on how we can further protect drivers and enforce city regulations. I think we should be working our way to a society with fewer vehicles on the road overall and I have no problem starting with cracking down on any rideshare company that does the above.

Eliminating parking placards

Obviously not for disabled New Yorkers, but yes to completely eliminating the parking placards that have been abused by city officials and NYPD officers and that have been an open invitation to corruption and counterfeiting! Eliminating the placards will either inspire these drivers to switch to public transportation, or it will bring in more parking ticket revenue from these people, so I see it as a win-win.

Legalizing e-bikes and e-scooters

I think this just happened. If not, yes.

Reducing the city vehicle fleet by at least 25%, with a special focus on NYPD's fleet.

Yes.

Renewable Rikers

In 2016 when the close Rikers campaign really started to gain traction I envisioned the land becoming a new Seneca Village. A new home for the thousands of Black folks who have been displaced over the past three decades and those who continue to be pushed further and further away from the homes and neighborhoods they love. A way for this city, state and country to pay its debt to its most loyal citizens. It's probably unrealistic but it was and still is my hope. The one thing I'm sure of is that the land must NOT be privatized.

How should we handle the power aspect of the proposed plan? Who should own the power assets proposed?

If a Renewable Rikers was to move forward it should be municipally owned.

If the proposed study finds that there is too much needed extra capacity for the proposed Rikers wastewater treatment plant to replace other plants, do you support building one anyway? If not, what do you propose we do to eliminate our city's CSO problem?

I will never lie to my comrades or constituents and if I don't have the knowledge base on a particular topic or question I will admit it, and this is one of those times. Whether endorsed or not I'm happy to take the advice and guidance from comrades in the Ecosocialist WG, who obviously have spent time and energy on this topic.

Centering transit justice as an equity, racial justice and social justice issue and adopting a “15-Minute City” plan for all New Yorkers

Yes.

Investing in public parks, green spaces, and community gardens and ending their privatization.

Yes, it's in our platform. As someone who spent his childhood playing, picnicking, and barbecuing with my family in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Prospect Park, and Fort Greene Park, I want to ensure that future generations of kids get to have that experience as well. I also

want to work with communities that surround our current greenspaces to create community plans that will protect those spaces.

Building climate resilience measures such as hardened, raised architecture or expansion of wetlands, shores, and natural infrastructure around waterfronts and vulnerable areas.

Yes.

Ensure waterfronts are prioritized for use as accessible public spaces and floodwater catchments, rather than development parcels for private real estate.

Yes. I also oppose Two Trees Management's Williamsburg waterfront plan and the Flushing Waterfront Development plan and any other waterfront development that doesn't put the concerns, needs and demands of long-term residents first.

Take community input and ecosystem preservation into account to democratically plan a managed retreat from coastlines. Ensure disaster relief efforts prioritize the most vulnerable communities, are not means tested, and do not require citizenship checks.

Yes.

Having a municipally owned commercial waste collection system.

Yes.

Reducing food waste and expanding existing public food programs and municipal food purchasing and ensuring purchases are from farms that protect farmworkers rights and utilize regenerative and sustainable practices, including in urban farms.

Yes.

Supporting publicly or municipally owned broadband and guaranteeing internet access to all.

Yes, It's in our platform.

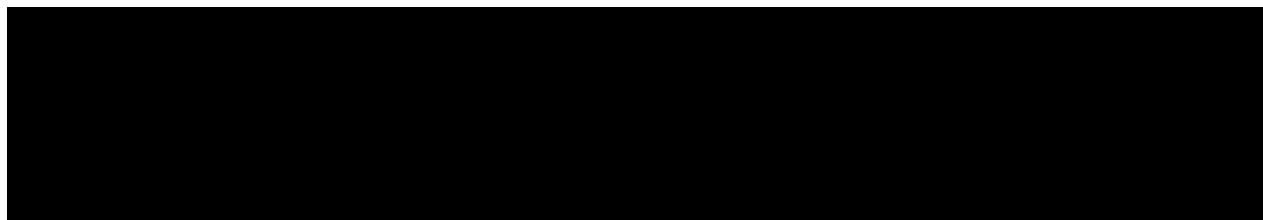
Eliminating the jaywalking violation (Title 34, Section 4-04)

Yes, this is NYC and everyone jaywalks.

Restoring parking and traffic enforcement to the NYC DOT from the NYPD

Yes.

O. FOREIGN POLICY





Do you support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement? If not, why?

Yes. I don't know a lot about foreign policy and I'll never pretend to know or talk about areas in which I don't have a knowledge base. But I do know about injustice and what's happening to the majority of the Palestinian people is unjust.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 35

SUMMARY

District 35 covers parts of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, BedStuy, Prospect Heights and Crown Heights. Like 34, the age demographics would favor a DSA candidate. 40% of the district falls between 20 & 39 years of age, compared to 32% citywide. It is a diverse district and includes a diaspora of income levels and racial demographics. 12% of the district is hispanic or latino, 43% black and 35% white.

35 is also a very well educated district. Over 50% of residents over 25 years of age have a bachelors or advanced degree, which is 13% above the citywide average.

77% of units are renter occupied, which is 10% above the citywide average.

District Map



BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The District

Representation

Current Incumbent: Laurie Cumbo

Term Limit Year: 2021

Demographics

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q0S7o1bw8XPnBTBqhmFZDDnZz9NZxOxEd0ZPwD9FxRM/edit#gid=0>

Age and Sex						
Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total population	185,664	100.00%	8,443,713	100.00%	-8,258,049	0
Male	85,717	46.20%	4,025,097	47.70%	-3,939,380	-1.5
Female	99,947	53.80%	4,418,616	52.30%	-4,318,669	1.5
Under 5 years	11,587	6.20%	551,869	6.50%	-540,282	-0.3
5 to 9 years	8,723	4.70%	476,567	5.60%	-467,844	-0.9
10 to 14 years	8,482	4.60%	464,704	5.50%	-456,222	-0.9
15 to 19 years	9,518	5.10%	455,674	5.40%	-446,156	-0.3
20 to 24 years	14,201	7.60%	571,401	6.80%	-557,200	0.8
25 to 29 years	22,991	12.40%	785,805	9.30%	-762,814	3.1
30 to 34 years	20,832	11.20%	718,474	8.50%	-697,642	2.7
35 to 39 years	15,646	8.40%	610,524	7.20%	-594,878	1.2
40 to 44 years	11,942	6.40%	545,892	6.50%	-533,950	-0.1
45 to 49 years	11,741	6.30%	542,513	6.40%	-530,772	-0.1

50 to 54 years	9,975	5.40%	544,447	6.40%	-534,472	-1
55 to 59 years	9,446	5.10%	515,825	6.10%	-506,379	-1
60 to 64 years	9,493	5.10%	470,657	5.60%	-461,164	-0.5
65 to 69 years	7,418	4.00%	384,622	4.60%	-377,204	-0.6
70 to 74 years	5,079	2.70%	280,196	3.30%	-275,117	-0.6
75 to 79 years	3,214	1.70%	211,102	2.50%	-207,888	-0.8
80 to 84 years	2,595	1.40%	148,988	1.80%	-146,393	-0.4
85 years and over	2,781	1.50%	164,453	1.90%	-161,672	-0.4
Under 18 years	34,581	18.60%	1,766,571	20.90%	-1,731,990	-2.3
65 years and over	21,087	11.40%	1,189,361	14.10%	-1,168,274	-2.7
Median age (years)	34.2		36.5		-2.3	
Under 18 years	34,581	100.00%	1,766,571	100.00%	-1,731,990	0
Male	17,523	50.70%	900,987	51.00%	-883,464	-0.3
Female	17,058	49.30%	865,584	49.00%	-848,526	0.3
65 years and over	21,087	100.00%	1,189,361	100.00%	-1,168,274	0
Male	7,710	36.60%	486,299	40.90%	-478,589	-4.3
Female	13,377	63.40%	703,062	59.10%	-689,685	4.3

Mutually Exclusive Race / Hispanic Origin

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total population	185,664	100.00%	8,443,713	100.00%	-8,258,049	0

Hispanic/Latin o (of any race)	22,758	12.30%	2,457,137	29.10%	-2,434,379	-16.8
Not Hispanic/Latin o	162,906	87.70%	5,986,576	70.90%	-5,823,670	16.8
White alone	64,058	34.50%	2,713,930	32.10%	-2,649,872	2.4
Black or African American Alone	79,191	42.70%	1,853,055	21.90%	-1,773,864	20.8
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	174	0.10%	15,017	0.20%	-14,843	-0.1
Asian alone	11,817	6.40%	1,167,421	13.80%	-1,155,604	-7.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	39	0.00%	2,794	0.00%	-2,755	0
Some other race alone	1,401	0.80%	71,758	0.80%	-70,357	0
Two or more races	6,226	3.40%	162,601	1.90%	-156,375	1.5

Hispanic Subgroup

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Hispanic/Latin o	22,758	100.00%	2,457,137	100.00%	-2,434,379	0
Mexican	2,677	11.80%	339,425	13.80%	-336,748	-2
Puerto Rican	7,876	34.60%	696,879	28.40%	-689,003	6.2
Cuban	703	3.10%	39,929	1.60%	-39,226	1.5
Dominican (Dominican Republic)	4,737	20.80%	701,188	28.50%	-696,451	-7.7
Central American	3,270	14.40%	179,031	7.30%	-175,761	7.1
Costa Rican	329	1.40%	7,377	0.30%	-7,048	1.1
Guatemalan	300	1.30%	37,583	1.50%	-37,283	-0.2
Honduran	570	2.50%	50,108	2.00%	-49,538	0.5
Nicaraguan	165	0.70%	12,560	0.50%	-12,395	0.2

Panamanian	1,508	6.60%	22,824	0.90%	-21,316	5.7
Salvadoran	349	1.50%	46,973	1.90%	-46,624	-0.4
Other Central American	49	0.20%	1,606	0.10%	-1,557	0.1
South American	1,993	8.80%	392,206	16.00%	-390,213	-7.2
Argentinean	244	1.10%	18,356	0.70%	-18,112	0.4
Bolivian	0		3,802	0.20%	-3,802	-0.2
Chilean	117	0.50%	7,524	0.30%	-7,407	0.2
Colombian	467	2.10%	102,532	4.20%	-102,065	-2.1
Ecuadorian	688	3.00%	196,728	8.00%	-196,040	-5
Paraguayan	24	0.10%	3,666	0.10%	-3,642	0
Peruvian	185	0.80%	40,211	1.60%	-40,026	-0.8
Uruguayan	11	0.00%	3,021	0.10%	-3,010	-0.1
Venezuelan	248	1.10%	13,555	0.60%	-13,307	0.5
Other South American	9	0.00%	2,811	0.10%	-2,802	-0.1
Other Hispanic/Latin o	1,502	6.60%	108,479	4.40%	-106,977	2.2
Spaniard	386	1.70%	24,966	1.00%	-24,580	0.7
Spanish	299	1.30%	9,505	0.40%	-9,206	0.9
Spanish American	0		601	0.00%	-601	0
All other Hispanic/Latin o	817	3.60%	73,407	3.00%	-72,590	0.6

Asian Subgroup

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Asian Alone	11,935	100.00%	1,177,700	100.00%	-1,165,765	0
East Asian	7,999	67.00%	686,453	58.30%	-678,454	8.7
Chinese, except Taiwanese	5,690	47.70%	565,173	48.00%	-559,483	-0.3
Japanese	898	7.50%	25,224	2.10%	-24,326	5.4
Korean	1,112	9.30%	85,212	7.20%	-84,100	2.1

Mongolian	0		644	0.10%	-644	-0.1
Okinawan	0		0		0	0
Taiwanese	299	2.50%	10,200	0.90%	-9,901	1.6
South Asian	2,227	18.70%	357,005	30.30%	-354,778	-11.6
Asian Indian	1,828	15.30%	228,887	19.40%	-227,059	-4.1
Bangladeshi	140	1.20%	65,991	5.60%	-65,851	-4.4
Bhutanese	0		100	0.00%	-100	0
Nepalese	57	0.50%	8,478	0.70%	-8,421	-0.2
Pakistani	103	0.90%	48,973	4.20%	-48,870	-3.3
Sri Lankan	99	0.80%	4,576	0.40%	-4,477	0.4
Southeast Asian	1,147	9.60%	106,360	9.00%	-105,213	0.6
Burmese	14	0.10%	4,509	0.40%	-4,495	-0.3
Cambodian	10	0.10%	2,700	0.20%	-2,690	-0.1
Filipino	735	6.20%	71,450	6.10%	-70,715	0.1
Hmong	11	0.10%	60	0.00%	-49	0.1
Indonesian	7	0.10%	3,778	0.30%	-3,771	-0.2
Laotian	22	0.20%	538	0.00%	-516	0.2
Malaysian	69	0.60%	1,750	0.10%	-1,681	0.5
Thai	102	0.90%	7,346	0.60%	-7,244	0.3
Vietnamese	177	1.50%	14,229	1.20%	-14,052	0.3
Other Asian	246	2.10%	10,707	0.90%	-10,461	1.2
Two or more Asian	316	2.60%	17,175	1.50%	-16,859	1.1

Household Type

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total households	76,704	100.00%	3,154,103	100.00%	-3,077,399	0
Family households (families)	37,324	48.70%	1,887,978	59.90%	-1,850,654	-11.2
With own children under 18 years	15,940	20.80%	795,899	25.20%	-779,959	-4.4

Married-couple family	20,844	27.20%	1,159,906	36.80%	-1,139,062	-9.6
With own children under 18 years	9,380	12.20%	494,106	15.70%	-484,726	-3.5
Male householder, no wife present, family	3,421	4.50%	172,928	5.50%	-169,507	-1
With own children under 18 years	1,165	1.50%	55,842	1.80%	-54,677	-0.3
Female householder, no husband present, family	13,059	17.00%	555,144	17.60%	-542,085	-0.6
With own children under 18 years	5,395	7.00%	245,951	7.80%	-240,556	-0.8
Nonfamily households	39,380	51.30%	1,266,125	40.10%	-1,226,745	11.2
Householder living alone	26,849	35.00%	1,015,605	32.20%	-988,756	2.8
65 years and over	7,011	9.10%	357,845	11.30%	-350,834	-2.2
Households with one or more people under 18 years	18,320	23.90%	920,772	29.20%	-902,452	-5.3
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	16,130	21.00%	883,169	28.00%	-867,039	-7
Average household size	2.35		2.62		-0.27	

Average family size	3.18		3.39		-0.21	
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Relationship To Head Of Household (Householder)

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Population in households	180,164	100.00%	8,266,644	100.00%	-8,086,480	0
Householder	76,704	42.60%	3,154,103	38.20%	-3,077,399	4.4
Spouse	20,882	11.60%	1,157,618	14.00%	-1,136,736	-2.4
Child	46,747	25.90%	2,467,404	29.80%	-2,420,657	-3.9
Other relatives	13,861	7.70%	888,058	10.70%	-874,197	-3
Nonrelatives	21,970	12.20%	599,461	7.30%	-577,491	4.9
Unmarried partner	6,708	3.70%	172,873	2.10%	-166,165	1.6
Same sex unmarried partner	736	0.40%	16,654	0.20%	-15,918	0.2

Marital Status

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Males 15 years and over	71,061	100.00%	3,262,773	100.00%	-3,191,712	0
Never married	39,540	55.60%	1,488,804	45.60%	-1,449,264	10
Now married, except separated	24,298	34.20%	1,427,850	43.80%	-1,403,552	-9.6
Separated	2,301	3.20%	76,052	2.30%	-73,751	0.9
Widowed	1,248	1.80%	73,834	2.30%	-72,586	-0.5
Divorced	3,674	5.20%	196,233	6.00%	-192,559	-0.8
Females 15 years and over	85,811	100.00%	3,687,800	100.00%	-3,601,989	0
Never married	45,922	53.50%	1,531,940	41.50%	-1,486,018	12

Now married, except separated	23,921	27.90%	1,365,285	37.00%	-1,341,364	-9.1
Separated	3,517	4.10%	134,658	3.70%	-131,141	0.4
Widowed	4,878	5.70%	310,212	8.40%	-305,334	-2.7
Divorced	7,573	8.80%	345,705	9.40%	-338,132	-0.6

Grandparents

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Number of grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years	3,049	100.00%	227,612	100.00%	-224,563	0
Responsible for grandchildren	1,027	33.70%	60,687	26.70%	-59,660	7

School Enrollment

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	42,103	100.00%	2,018,104	100.00%	-1,976,001	0
Nursery school, preschool	3,326	7.90%	138,047	6.80%	-134,721	1.1
Kindergarten	1,792	4.30%	103,836	5.10%	-102,044	-0.8
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	13,905	33.00%	760,849	37.70%	-746,944	-4.7
High school (grades 9-12)	7,369	17.50%	383,365	19.00%	-375,996	-1.5
College or graduate school	15,711	37.30%	632,007	31.30%	-616,296	6

Educational Attainment (Highest Grade Completed)

	Selected Area	New York City	Difference
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Show Reliability Data	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Population 25 years and over	133,153	100.00%	5,923,498	100.00%	-5,790,345	0
Less than 9th grade	6,722	5.00%	565,345	9.50%	-558,623	-4.5
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	9,779	7.30%	523,873	8.80%	-514,094	-1.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	24,421	18.30%	1,421,617	24.00%	-1,397,196	-5.7
Some college, no degree	18,611	14.00%	815,961	13.80%	-797,350	0.2
Associate's degree	6,767	5.10%	379,457	6.40%	-372,690	-1.3
Bachelor's degree	37,915	28.50%	1,292,814	21.80%	-1,254,899	6.7
Graduate or professional degree	28,938	21.70%	924,431	15.60%	-895,493	6.1
Less than high school graduate	16,501	12.40%	1,089,218	18.40%	-1,072,717	-6
Bachelor's degree or higher	66,853	50.20%	2,217,245	37.40%	-2,150,392	12.8

Veteran Status

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Civilian population 18 years and over	151,083	100.00%	6,674,840	100.00%	-6,523,757	0
Veterans	2,695	1.80%	156,514	2.30%	-153,819	-0.5

Disability Status Of The Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population

	Selected Area	New York City	Difference
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Show Reliability Data		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	184,514	100.00%	8,379,895	100.00%	-8,195,381	0	
With a disability	19,209	10.40%	905,592	10.80%	-886,383	-0.4	
With a hearing difficulty	3,608	2.00%	181,759	2.20%	-178,151	-0.2	
With a vision difficulty	3,930	2.10%	198,917	2.40%	-194,987	-0.3	
With a cognitive difficulty	7,241	3.90%	331,130	4.00%	-323,889	-0.1	
With an ambulatory difficulty	12,343	6.70%	546,417	6.50%	-534,074	0.2	
With a self-care difficulty	4,322	2.30%	231,666	2.80%	-227,344	-0.5	
With an independent living difficulty	7,425	4.00%	370,804	4.40%	-363,379	-0.4	
Under 18 years	34,544	100.00%	1,764,874	100.00%	-1,730,330	0	
With a disability	1,292	3.70%	60,631	3.40%	-59,339	0.3	
With a hearing difficulty	107	0.30%	8,799	0.50%	-8,692	-0.2	
With a vision difficulty	259	0.70%	14,491	0.80%	-14,232	-0.1	
With a cognitive difficulty	979	2.80%	40,000	2.30%	-39,021	0.5	
With an ambulatory difficulty	254	0.70%	9,449	0.50%	-9,195	0.2	
With a self-care difficulty	233	0.70%	14,198	0.80%	-13,965	-0.1	

18 to 64 years	129,839	100.00%	5,460,031	100.00%	-5,330,192	0
With a disability	10,152	7.80%	432,783	7.90%	-422,631	-0.1
With a hearing difficulty	1,531	1.20%	58,827	1.10%	-57,296	0.1
With a vision difficulty	2,121	1.60%	96,360	1.80%	-94,239	-0.2
With a cognitive difficulty	4,190	3.20%	170,837	3.10%	-166,647	0.1
With an ambulatory difficulty	5,931	4.60%	229,309	4.20%	-223,378	0.4
With a self-care difficulty	1,968	1.50%	83,328	1.50%	-81,360	0
With an independent living difficulty	3,624	2.80%	152,865	2.80%	-149,241	0
65 years and over	20,131	100.00%	1,154,990	100.00%	-1,134,859	0
With a disability	7,765	38.60%	412,178	35.70%	-404,413	2.9
With a hearing difficulty	1,970	9.80%	114,133	9.90%	-112,163	-0.1
With a vision difficulty	1,550	7.70%	88,066	7.60%	-86,516	0.1
With a cognitive difficulty	2,072	10.30%	120,293	10.40%	-118,221	-0.1
With an ambulatory difficulty	6,158	30.60%	307,659	26.60%	-301,501	4
With a self-care difficulty	2,121	10.50%	134,140	11.60%	-132,019	-1.1
With an independent living difficulty	3,801	18.90%	217,939	18.90%	-214,138	0
Residence 1 Year Ago						
	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	

Show Reliability Data	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Population 1 year and over	183,429	100.00%	8,337,697	100.00%	-8,154,268	0
Same house	158,455	86.40%	7,503,083	90.00%	-7,344,628	-3.6
Lived in a different house	24,974	13.60%	834,614	10.00%	-809,640	3.6
Population 1 year and over that lived in a different house	24,974	100.00%	834,614	100.00%	-809,640	0
Different house in the U.S.	22,937	91.80%	743,726	89.10%	-720,789	2.7
Same county	12,902	51.70%	460,018	55.10%	-447,116	-3.4
Different county	10,035	40.20%	283,708	34.00%	-273,673	6.2
Within New York City	4,434	17.80%	122,166	14.60%	-117,732	3.2
Outside New York City	5,601	22.40%	161,542	19.40%	-155,941	3
Abroad	2,037	8.20%	90,888	10.90%	-88,851	-2.7

Place Of Birth

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total population	185,664	100.00%	8,443,713	100.00%	-8,258,049	0
Native	135,407	72.90%	5,316,424	63.00%	-5,181,017	9.9
Born in United States	129,518	69.80%	5,003,656	59.30%	-4,874,138	10.5
Born in New York State	84,976	45.80%	4,073,915	48.20%	-3,988,939	-2.4
Born outside New York State	44,542	24.00%	929,741	11.00%	-885,199	13

Born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island areas, or born abroad to American parent(s)	5,889	3.20%	312,768	3.70%	-306,879	-0.5
Foreign-born	50,257	27.10%	3,127,289	37.00%	-3,077,032	-9.9
Foreign-born	50,257	100.00%	3,127,289	100.00%	-3,077,032	0
Europe	6,017	12.00%	454,287	14.50%	-448,270	-2.5
Northern Europe	1,427	2.80%	51,362	1.60%	-49,935	1.2
United Kingdom (inc. Crown Dependencies)	1,150	2.30%	32,158	1.00%	-31,008	1.3
United Kingdom, excluding England and Scotland	714	1.40%	19,031	0.60%	-18,317	0.8
England	407	0.80%	11,879	0.40%	-11,472	0.4
Scotland	29	0.10%	1,248	0.00%	-1,219	0.1
Ireland	161	0.30%	13,141	0.40%	-12,980	-0.1
Denmark	31	0.10%	1,202	0.00%	-1,171	0.1
Norway	5	0.00%	879	0.00%	-874	0
Sweden	58	0.10%	3,191	0.10%	-3,133	0
Other Northern Europe	22	0.00%	791	0.00%	-769	0
Western Europe	1,626	3.20%	50,826	1.60%	-49,200	1.6
Austria	115	0.20%	3,660	0.10%	-3,545	0.1
Belgium	62	0.10%	3,153	0.10%	-3,091	0
France	668	1.30%	19,647	0.60%	-18,979	0.7
Germany	439	0.90%	18,383	0.60%	-17,944	0.3
Netherlands	186	0.40%	2,819	0.10%	-2,633	0.3
Switzerland	156	0.30%	2,955	0.10%	-2,799	0.2

Other Western Europe	0		209	0.00%	-209	0
Southern Europe	639	1.30%	77,672	2.50%	-77,033	-1.2
Greece	40	0.10%	18,836	0.60%	-18,796	-0.5
Italy	303	0.60%	46,106	1.50%	-45,803	-0.9
Portugal	9	0.00%	2,240	0.10%	-2,231	-0.1
Spain	287	0.60%	9,663	0.30%	-9,376	0.3
Other Southern Europe	0		827	0.00%	-827	0
Eastern Europe	2,325	4.60%	272,897	8.70%	-270,572	-4.1
Albania	101	0.20%	17,563	0.60%	-17,462	-0.4
Belarus	109	0.20%	12,400	0.40%	-12,291	-0.2
Bulgaria	106	0.20%	4,089	0.10%	-3,983	0.1
Croatia	22	0.00%	3,828	0.10%	-3,806	-0.1
Czechoslovakia (includes Czech Republic and Slovakia)	18	0.00%	4,939	0.20%	-4,921	-0.2
Hungary	39	0.10%	6,317	0.20%	-6,278	-0.1
Latvia	0		2,371	0.10%	-2,371	-0.1
Lithuania	16	0.00%	2,329	0.10%	-2,313	-0.1
Macedonia	26	0.10%	2,813	0.10%	-2,787	0
Moldova	24	0.00%	5,279	0.20%	-5,255	-0.2
Poland	356	0.70%	46,848	1.50%	-46,492	-0.8
Romania	38	0.10%	13,330	0.40%	-13,292	-0.3
Russia	775	1.50%	59,475	1.90%	-58,700	-0.4
Ukraine	432	0.90%	62,010	2.00%	-61,578	-1.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	37	0.10%	1,696	0.10%	-1,659	0
Serbia	10	0.00%	3,758	0.10%	-3,748	-0.1
Other Eastern Europe	216	0.40%	23,852	0.80%	-23,636	-0.4
Europe, n.e.c.	0		1,530	0.00%	-1,530	0

Asia	8,676	17.30%	913,986	29.20%	-905,310	-11.9
Eastern Asia	5,145	10.20%	472,019	15.10%	-466,874	-4.9
China	3,708	7.40%	391,239	12.50%	-387,531	-5.1
China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	2,966	5.90%	334,774	10.70%	-331,808	-4.8
Hong Kong	400	0.80%	34,726	1.10%	-34,326	-0.3
Taiwan	342	0.70%	21,739	0.70%	-21,397	0
Japan	747	1.50%	20,689	0.70%	-19,942	0.8
Korea	690	1.40%	59,914	1.90%	-59,224	-0.5
Other Eastern Asia	0		177	0.00%	-177	0
South Central Asia	1,279	2.50%	264,531	8.50%	-263,252	-6
Afghanistan	0		3,928	0.10%	-3,928	-0.1
Bangladesh	244	0.50%	86,980	2.80%	-86,736	-2.3
India	580	1.20%	78,861	2.50%	-78,281	-1.3
Iran	134	0.30%	7,687	0.20%	-7,553	0.1
Kazakhstan	7	0.00%	3,170	0.10%	-3,163	-0.1
Nepal	67	0.10%	8,822	0.30%	-8,755	-0.2
Pakistan	132	0.30%	39,287	1.30%	-39,155	-1
Sri Lanka	36	0.10%	4,314	0.10%	-4,278	0
Uzbekistan	69	0.10%	26,701	0.90%	-26,632	-0.8
Other South Central Asia	10	0.00%	4,781	0.20%	-4,771	-0.2
South Eastern Asia	803	1.60%	100,124	3.20%	-99,321	-1.6
Cambodia	0		1,952	0.10%	-1,952	-0.1
Indonesia	7	0.00%	4,009	0.10%	-4,002	-0.1
Laos	22	0.00%	353	0.00%	-331	0
Malaysia	168	0.30%	8,892	0.30%	-8,724	0
Burma	25	0.00%	6,545	0.20%	-6,520	-0.2
Philippines	372	0.70%	55,868	1.80%	-55,496	-1.1
Singapore	16	0.00%	2,416	0.10%	-2,400	-0.1
Thailand	58	0.10%	6,643	0.20%	-6,585	-0.1

Vietnam	135	0.30%	13,269	0.40%	-13,134	-0.1
Other South Eastern Asia	0		177	0.00%	-177	0
Western Asia	1,449	2.90%	75,186	2.40%	-73,737	0.5
Iraq	88	0.20%	933	0.00%	-845	0.2
Israel	840	1.70%	21,803	0.70%	-20,963	1
Jordan	19	0.00%	1,575	0.10%	-1,556	-0.1
Kuwait	29	0.10%	977	0.00%	-948	0.1
Lebanon	15	0.00%	4,140	0.10%	-4,125	-0.1
Saudi Arabia	0		1,321	0.00%	-1,321	0
Syria	64	0.10%	5,668	0.20%	-5,604	-0.1
Yemen	223	0.40%	13,105	0.40%	-12,882	0
Turkey	88	0.20%	9,483	0.30%	-9,395	-0.1
Armenia	0		2,434	0.10%	-2,434	-0.1
Other Western Asia	83	0.20%	13,747	0.40%	-13,664	-0.2
Asia,n.e.c.	0		2,126	0.10%	-2,126	-0.1
Africa	4,155	8.30%	147,127	4.70%	-142,972	3.6
Eastern Africa	277	0.60%	9,433	0.30%	-9,156	0.3
Eritrea	18	0.00%	319	0.00%	-301	0
Ethiopia	28	0.10%	2,952	0.10%	-2,924	0
Kenya	63	0.10%	1,569	0.10%	-1,506	0
Other Eastern Africa	168	0.30%	4,593	0.10%	-4,425	0.2
Middle Africa	129	0.30%	2,773	0.10%	-2,644	0.2
Cameroon	0		914	0.00%	-914	0
Other Middle Africa	129	0.30%	1,859	0.10%	-1,730	0.2
Northern Africa	303	0.60%	31,122	1.00%	-30,819	-0.4
Egypt	172	0.30%	19,340	0.60%	-19,168	-0.3
Morocco	71	0.10%	6,611	0.20%	-6,540	-0.1
Sudan	0		1,153	0.00%	-1,153	0
Other Northern Africa	60	0.10%	4,018	0.10%	-3,958	0

Southern Africa	123	0.20%	3,768	0.10%	-3,645	0.1
South Africa	123	0.20%	3,423	0.10%	-3,300	0.1
Other Southern Africa	0		345	0.00%	-345	0
Western Africa	2,959	5.90%	87,463	2.80%	-84,504	3.1
Cabo Verde	26	0.10%	147	0.00%	-121	0.1
Ghana	559	1.10%	25,741	0.80%	-25,182	0.3
Liberia	233	0.50%	3,264	0.10%	-3,031	0.4
Nigeria	764	1.50%	25,653	0.80%	-24,889	0.7
Sierra Leone	139	0.30%	1,856	0.10%	-1,717	0.2
Other Western Africa	1,238	2.50%	30,802	1.00%	-29,564	1.5
Africa, n.e.c.	364	0.70%	12,568	0.40%	-12,204	0.3
Oceania	533	1.10%	10,987	0.40%	-10,454	0.7
Australia and New Zealand Subregion:	533	1.10%	10,090	0.30%	-9,557	0.8
Australia	439	0.90%	8,788	0.30%	-8,349	0.6
Other Australian and New Zealand Subregion	94	0.20%	1,302	0.00%	-1,208	0.2
Fiji	0		134	0.00%	-134	0
Oceania, n.e.c.	0		763	0.00%	-763	0
Americas	30,876	61.40%	1,600,899	51.20%	-1,570,023	10.2
Latin America	29,786	59.30%	1,576,983	50.40%	-1,547,197	8.9
Caribbean	22,768	45.30%	870,231	27.80%	-847,463	17.5
Bahamas	123	0.20%	898	0.00%	-775	0.2
Barbados	1,785	3.60%	21,922	0.70%	-20,137	2.9
Cuba	135	0.30%	14,661	0.50%	-14,526	-0.2
Dominica	61	0.10%	8,106	0.30%	-8,045	-0.2
Dominican Republic	2,808	5.60%	422,374	13.50%	-419,566	-7.9

Grenada	1,603	3.20%	21,100	0.70%	-19,497	2.5
Haiti	4,304	8.60%	85,580	2.70%	-81,276	5.9
Jamaica	4,835	9.60%	169,835	5.40%	-165,000	4.2
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	895	1.80%	13,112	0.40%	-12,217	1.4
Trinidad and Tobago	4,555	9.10%	79,436	2.50%	-74,881	6.6
West Indies	361	0.70%	9,525	0.30%	-9,164	0.4
Other Caribbean	1,303	2.60%	23,682	0.80%	-22,379	1.8
Central America	3,064	6.10%	290,411	9.30%	-287,347	-3.2
Mexico	880	1.80%	170,548	5.50%	-169,668	-3.7
Belize	147	0.30%	6,737	0.20%	-6,590	0.1
Costa Rica	145	0.30%	4,079	0.10%	-3,934	0.2
El Salvador	179	0.40%	28,347	0.90%	-28,168	-0.5
Guatemala	135	0.30%	25,432	0.80%	-25,297	-0.5
Honduras	449	0.90%	30,587	1.00%	-30,138	-0.1
Nicaragua	65	0.10%	8,190	0.30%	-8,125	-0.2
Panama	1,057	2.10%	15,874	0.50%	-14,817	1.6
Other Central America	7	0.00%	617	0.00%	-610	0
South America	3,954	7.90%	416,341	13.30%	-412,387	-5.4
Argentina	87	0.20%	13,398	0.40%	-13,311	-0.2
Bolivia	0		2,382	0.10%	-2,382	-0.1
Brazil	384	0.80%	13,483	0.40%	-13,099	0.4
Chile	54	0.10%	5,278	0.20%	-5,224	-0.1
Colombia	148	0.30%	68,853	2.20%	-68,705	-1.9
Ecuador	433	0.90%	127,673	4.10%	-127,240	-3.2
Guyana	2,539	5.10%	138,233	4.40%	-135,694	0.7
Peru	63	0.10%	28,775	0.90%	-28,712	-0.8
Uruguay	36	0.10%	2,475	0.10%	-2,439	0
Venezuela	135	0.30%	9,581	0.30%	-9,446	0
Other South America	75	0.10%	6,210	0.20%	-6,135	-0.1

Northern America	1,090	2.20%	23,916	0.80%	-22,826	1.4
Canada	1,090	2.20%	23,521	0.80%	-22,431	1.4
Other Northern America	0		395	0.00%	-395	0

U.S. Citizenship Status

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Foreign-born population	50,257	100.00%	3,127,289	100.00%	-3,077,032	0
Naturalized U.S. citizen	30,331	60.40%	1,749,863	56.00%	-1,719,532	4.4
Not a U.S. citizen	19,926	39.60%	1,377,426	44.00%	-1,357,500	-4.4

Year Of Entry

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Foreign-born population	50,257	100.00%	3,127,289	100.00%	-3,077,032	0
Entered 2000 or later	19,689	39.20%	1,330,520	42.50%	-1,310,831	-3.3

Language Spoken At Home

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Population 5 years and over	167,562	100.00%	7,870,932	100.00%	-7,703,370	0
English only	118,521	70.70%	4,009,822	50.90%	-3,891,301	19.8
Language other than English	49,041	29.30%	3,861,110	49.10%	-3,812,069	-19.8
Speak English less than "very well"	18,204	10.90%	1,821,170	23.10%	-1,802,966	-12.2
Spanish or Spanish Creole	19,901	100.00%	1,932,321	100.00%	-1,912,420	0

Speak English less than "very well"	6,771	34.00%	888,764	46.00%	-881,993	-12
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	2,887	100.00%	87,390	100.00%	-84,503	0
Speak English less than "very well"	756	26.20%	22,841	26.10%	-22,085	0.1
French Creole	5,824	100.00%	110,845	100.00%	-105,021	0
Speak English less than "very well"	3,126	53.70%	48,698	43.90%	-45,572	9.8
Italian	591	100.00%	79,051	100.00%	-78,460	0
Speak English less than "very well"	123	20.80%	27,803	35.20%	-27,680	-14.4
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	187	100.00%	18,092	100.00%	-17,905	0
Speak English less than "very well"	47	25.10%	5,402	29.90%	-5,355	-4.8
German	598	100.00%	21,545	100.00%	-20,947	0
Speak English less than "very well"	31	5.20%	2,833	13.10%	-2,802	-7.9
Yiddish	2,916	100.00%	87,743	100.00%	-84,827	0
Speak English less than "very well"	558	19.10%	28,984	33.00%	-28,426	-13.9
Other West Germanic languages	195	100.00%	4,875	100.00%	-4,680	0
Speak English less than "very well"	52	26.70%	712	14.60%	-660	12.1

Scandinavian languages	104	100.00%	5,194	100.00%	-5,090	0
Speak English less than "very well"	13	12.50%	460	8.90%	-447	3.6
Greek	118	100.00%	42,634	100.00%	-42,516	0
Speak English less than "very well"	17	14.40%	13,483	31.60%	-13,466	-17.2
Russian	1,117	100.00%	195,619	100.00%	-194,502	0
Speak English less than "very well"	391	35.00%	114,804	58.70%	-114,413	-23.7
Polish	198	100.00%	55,093	100.00%	-54,895	0
Speak English less than "very well"	84	42.40%	26,465	48.00%	-26,381	-5.6
Serbo-Croatian	122	100.00%	16,920	100.00%	-16,798	0
Speak English less than "very well"	43	35.20%	6,633	39.20%	-6,590	-4
Other Slavic languages	155	100.00%	19,289	100.00%	-19,134	0
Speak English less than "very well"	19	12.30%	9,219	47.80%	-9,200	-35.5
Armenian	63	100.00%	4,401	100.00%	-4,338	0
Speak English less than "very well"	55	87.30%	1,762	40.00%	-1,707	47.3
Persian	189	100.00%	10,734	100.00%	-10,545	0
Speak English less than "very well"	49	25.90%	4,105	38.20%	-4,056	-12.3
Gujarati	92	100.00%	8,998	100.00%	-8,906	0

Speak English less than "very well"	0		3,290	36.60%	-3,290	-36.6
Hindi	314	100.00%	32,568	100.00%	-32,254	0
Speak English less than "very well"	35	11.10%	10,041	30.80%	-10,006	-19.7
Urdu	203	100.00%	47,464	100.00%	-47,261	0
Speak English less than "very well"	67	33.00%	20,533	43.30%	-20,466	-10.3
Other Indic languages	860	100.00%	138,540	100.00%	-137,680	0
Speak English less than "very well"	399	46.40%	71,150	51.40%	-70,751	-5
Other Indo-European languages	425	100.00%	53,313	100.00%	-52,888	0
Speak English less than "very well"	158	37.20%	22,095	41.40%	-21,937	-4.2
Chinese	3,963	100.00%	465,908	100.00%	-461,945	0
Speak English less than "very well"	2,579	65.10%	319,622	68.60%	-317,043	-3.5
Japanese	621	100.00%	22,098	100.00%	-21,477	0
Speak English less than "very well"	242	39.00%	10,572	47.80%	-10,330	-8.8
Korean	482	100.00%	75,990	100.00%	-75,508	0
Speak English less than "very well"	135	28.00%	46,226	60.80%	-46,091	-32.8
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	0		2,246	100.00%	-2,246	-100

Speak English less than "very well"	0		1,026	45.70%	-1,026	-45.7
Hmong	0		23	100.00%	-23	-100
Speak English less than "very well"	0		8	34.80%	-8	-34.8
Thai	106	100.00%	5,456	100.00%	-5,350	0
Speak English less than "very well"	81	76.40%	3,250	59.60%	-3,169	16.8
Laotian	0		323	100.00%	-323	-100
Speak English less than "very well"	0		106	32.80%	-106	-32.8
Vietnamese	107	100.00%	10,729	100.00%	-10,622	0
Speak English less than "very well"	26	24.30%	6,251	58.30%	-6,225	-34
Other Asian languages	450	100.00%	40,593	100.00%	-40,143	0
Speak English less than "very well"	154	34.20%	19,484	48.00%	-19,330	-13.8
Tagalog	172	100.00%	50,071	100.00%	-49,899	0
Speak English less than "very well"	70	40.70%	14,041	28.00%	-13,971	12.7
Other Pacific Island languages	118	100.00%	6,991	100.00%	-6,873	0
Speak English less than "very well"	20	16.90%	3,218	46.00%	-3,198	-29.1
Navajo	0		37	100.00%	-37	-100

Speak English less than "very well"	0		0		0	0
Other Native North American languages	60	100.00%	1,366	100.00%	-1,306	0
Speak English less than "very well"	0		437	32.00%	-437	-32
Hungarian	37	100.00%	7,735	100.00%	-7,698	0
Speak English less than "very well"	14	37.80%	3,202	41.40%	-3,188	-3.6
Arabic	1,127	100.00%	62,568	100.00%	-61,441	0
Speak English less than "very well"	644	57.10%	26,695	42.70%	-26,051	14.4
Hebrew	3,011	100.00%	46,543	100.00%	-43,532	0
Speak English less than "very well"	892	29.60%	9,285	19.90%	-8,393	9.7
African languages	1,699	100.00%	83,843	100.00%	-82,144	0
Speak English less than "very well"	553	32.50%	24,917	29.70%	-24,364	2.8
Other and unspecified languages	29	100.00%	5,961	100.00%	-5,932	0
Speak English less than "very well"	0		2,753	46.20%	-2,753	-46.2
Population 5 years and over	167,562	100.00%	7,870,932	100.00%	-7,703,370	0
English only	118,521	70.70%	4,009,822	50.90%	-3,891,301	19.8

Language other than English	49,041	29.30%	3,861,110	49.10%	-3,812,069	-19.8
Spanish or Spanish Creole	19,901	11.90%	1,932,321	24.60%	-1,912,420	-12.7
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	2,887	1.70%	87,390	1.10%	-84,503	0.6
French Creole	5,824	3.50%	110,845	1.40%	-105,021	2.1
Italian	591	0.40%	79,051	1.00%	-78,460	-0.6
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	187	0.10%	18,092	0.20%	-17,905	-0.1
German	598	0.40%	21,545	0.30%	-20,947	0.1
Yiddish	2,916	1.70%	87,743	1.10%	-84,827	0.6
Other West Germanic languages	195	0.10%	4,875	0.10%	-4,680	0
Scandinavian languages	104	0.10%	5,194	0.10%	-5,090	0
Greek	118	0.10%	42,634	0.50%	-42,516	-0.4
Russian	1,117	0.70%	195,619	2.50%	-194,502	-1.8
Polish	198	0.10%	55,093	0.70%	-54,895	-0.6
Serbo-Croatian	122	0.10%	16,920	0.20%	-16,798	-0.1
Other Slavic languages	155	0.10%	19,289	0.20%	-19,134	-0.1
Armenian	63	0.00%	4,401	0.10%	-4,338	-0.1
Persian	189	0.10%	10,734	0.10%	-10,545	0
Gujarati	92	0.10%	8,998	0.10%	-8,906	0
Hindi	314	0.20%	32,568	0.40%	-32,254	-0.2
Urdu	203	0.10%	47,464	0.60%	-47,261	-0.5
Other Indic languages	860	0.50%	138,540	1.80%	-137,680	-1.3
Other Indo-European languages	425	0.30%	53,313	0.70%	-52,888	-0.4
Chinese	3,963	2.40%	465,908	5.90%	-461,945	-3.5
Japanese	621	0.40%	22,098	0.30%	-21,477	0.1

Korean	482	0.30%	75,990	1.00%	-75,508	-0.7
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	0		2,246	0.00%	-2,246	0
Hmong	0		23	0.00%	-23	0
Thai	106	0.10%	5,456	0.10%	-5,350	0
Laotian	0		323	0.00%	-323	0
Vietnamese	107	0.10%	10,729	0.10%	-10,622	0
Other Asian languages	450	0.30%	40,593	0.50%	-40,143	-0.2
Tagalog	172	0.10%	50,071	0.60%	-49,899	-0.5
Other Pacific Island languages	118	0.10%	6,991	0.10%	-6,873	0
Navajo	0		37	0.00%	-37	0
Other Native North American languages	60	0.00%	1,366	0.00%	-1,306	0
Hungarian	37	0.00%	7,735	0.10%	-7,698	-0.1
Arabic	1,127	0.70%	62,568	0.80%	-61,441	-0.1
Hebrew	3,011	1.80%	46,543	0.60%	-43,532	1.2
African languages	1,699	1.00%	83,843	1.10%	-82,144	-0.1
Other and unspecified languages	29	0.00%	5,961	0.10%	-5,932	-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	18,204	100.00%	1,821,170	100.00%	-1,802,966	0
Spanish or Spanish Creole	6,771	37.20%	888,764	48.80%	-881,993	-11.6
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	756	4.20%	22,841	1.30%	-22,085	2.9
French Creole	3,126	17.20%	48,698	2.70%	-45,572	14.5
Italian	123	0.70%	27,803	1.50%	-27,680	-0.8

Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	47	0.30%	5,402	0.30%	-5,355	0
German	31	0.20%	2,833	0.20%	-2,802	0
Yiddish	558	3.10%	28,984	1.60%	-28,426	1.5
Other West Germanic languages	52	0.30%	712	0.00%	-660	0.3
Scandinavian languages	13	0.10%	460	0.00%	-447	0.1
Greek	17	0.10%	13,483	0.70%	-13,466	-0.6
Russian	391	2.10%	114,804	6.30%	-114,413	-4.2
Polish	84	0.50%	26,465	1.50%	-26,381	-1
Serbo-Croatian	43	0.20%	6,633	0.40%	-6,590	-0.2
Other Slavic languages	19	0.10%	9,219	0.50%	-9,200	-0.4
Armenian	55	0.30%	1,762	0.10%	-1,707	0.2
Persian	49	0.30%	4,105	0.20%	-4,056	0.1
Gujarati	0		3,290	0.20%	-3,290	-0.2
Hindi	35	0.20%	10,041	0.60%	-10,006	-0.4
Urdu	67	0.40%	20,533	1.10%	-20,466	-0.7
Other Indic languages	399	2.20%	71,150	3.90%	-70,751	-1.7
Other Indo-European languages	158	0.90%	22,095	1.20%	-21,937	-0.3
Chinese	2,579	14.20%	319,622	17.60%	-317,043	-3.4
Japanese	242	1.30%	10,572	0.60%	-10,330	0.7
Korean	135	0.70%	46,226	2.50%	-46,091	-1.8
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	0		1,026	0.10%	-1,026	-0.1
Hmong	0		8	0.00%	-8	0
Thai	81	0.40%	3,250	0.20%	-3,169	0.2
Laotian	0		106	0.00%	-106	0
Vietnamese	26	0.10%	6,251	0.30%	-6,225	-0.2
Other Asian languages	154	0.80%	19,484	1.10%	-19,330	-0.3
Tagalog	70	0.40%	14,041	0.80%	-13,971	-0.4

Other Pacific Island languages	20	0.10%	3,218	0.20%	-3,198	-0.1
Navajo	0		0		0	0
Other Native North American languages	0		437	0.00%	-437	0
Hungarian	14	0.10%	3,202	0.20%	-3,188	-0.1
Arabic	644	3.50%	26,695	1.50%	-26,051	2
Hebrew	892	4.90%	9,285	0.50%	-8,393	4.4
African languages	553	3.00%	24,917	1.40%	-24,364	1.6
Other and unspecified languages	0		2,753	0.20%	-2,753	-0.2

Ancestry

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total population	185,664	100.00%	8,443,713	100.00%	-8,258,049	0
Afghan	17	0.00%	4,368	0.10%	-4,351	-0.1
Albanian	83	0.00%	34,768	0.40%	-34,685	-0.4
Alsatian	0		214	0.00%	-214	0
American	7,741	4.20%	377,184	4.50%	-369,443	-0.3
Arab	1,553	0.80%	102,479	1.20%	-100,926	-0.4
Egyptian	221	0.10%	25,608	0.30%	-25,387	-0.2
Iraqi	18	0.00%	1,405	0.00%	-1,387	0
Jordanian	19	0.00%	1,679	0.00%	-1,660	0
Lebanese	287	0.20%	12,214	0.10%	-11,927	0.1
Moroccan	145	0.10%	9,353	0.10%	-9,208	0
Palestinian	33	0.00%	4,192	0.00%	-4,159	0
Syrian	147	0.10%	10,533	0.10%	-10,386	0
Arab	288	0.20%	12,835	0.20%	-12,547	0
Other Arab	453	0.20%	27,140	0.30%	-26,687	-0.1
Armenian	179	0.10%	10,953	0.10%	-10,774	0

Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac	6	0.00%	141	0.00%	-135	0
Australian	283	0.20%	5,177	0.10%	-4,894	0.1
Austrian	654	0.40%	24,296	0.30%	-23,642	0.1
Basque	92	0.00%	721	0.00%	-629	0
Belgian	87	0.00%	4,625	0.10%	-4,538	-0.1
Brazilian	241	0.10%	13,148	0.20%	-12,907	-0.1
British	1,230	0.70%	26,628	0.30%	-25,398	0.4
Bulgarian	101	0.10%	4,057	0.00%	-3,956	0.1
Cajun	0		258	0.00%	-258	0
Canadian	422	0.20%	11,091	0.10%	-10,669	0.1
Carpatho-Rusyn	0		426	0.00%	-426	0
Celtic	0		409	0.00%	-409	0
Croatian	166	0.10%	8,747	0.10%	-8,581	0
Cypriot	0		1,131	0.00%	-1,131	0
Czech	303	0.20%	12,010	0.10%	-11,707	0.1
Czechoslovakian	46	0.00%	3,960	0.00%	-3,914	0
Danish	280	0.20%	8,248	0.10%	-7,968	0.1
Dutch	1,181	0.60%	21,578	0.30%	-20,397	0.3
Eastern European	2,657	1.40%	60,768	0.70%	-58,111	0.7
English	5,639	3.00%	137,212	1.60%	-131,573	1.4
Estonian	29	0.00%	1,050	0.00%	-1,021	0
European	2,200	1.20%	69,740	0.80%	-67,540	0.4
Finnish	192	0.10%	3,975	0.00%	-3,783	0.1
French (except Basque)	2,486	1.30%	65,549	0.80%	-63,063	0.5
French Canadian	431	0.20%	10,685	0.10%	-10,254	0.1
German	8,185	4.40%	248,646	2.90%	-240,461	1.5
German Russian	0		252	0.00%	-252	0
Greek	977	0.50%	62,903	0.70%	-61,926	-0.2
Guyanese	2,662	1.40%	124,851	1.50%	-122,189	-0.1

Hungarian	1,173	0.60%	53,955	0.60%	-52,782	0
Icelander	19	0.00%	482	0.00%	-463	0
Iranian	384	0.20%	12,279	0.10%	-11,895	0.1
Irish	9,225	5.00%	364,226	4.30%	-355,001	0.7
Israeli	603	0.30%	21,959	0.30%	-21,356	0
Italian	7,314	3.90%	536,472	6.40%	-529,158	-2.5
Latvian	157	0.10%	4,086	0.00%	-3,929	0.1
Lithuanian	489	0.30%	13,567	0.20%	-13,078	0.1
Luxemburger	0		300	0.00%	-300	0
Macedonian	30	0.00%	8,489	0.10%	-8,459	-0.1
Maltese	0		2,417	0.00%	-2,417	0
New Zealander	63	0.00%	808	0.00%	-745	0
Northern European	187	0.10%	4,259	0.10%	-4,072	0
Norwegian	851	0.50%	24,554	0.30%	-23,703	0.2
Pennsylvania German	98	0.10%	466	0.00%	-368	0.1
Polish	4,144	2.20%	200,541	2.40%	-196,397	-0.2
Portuguese	265	0.10%	13,837	0.20%	-13,572	-0.1
Romanian	317	0.20%	27,656	0.30%	-27,339	-0.1
Russian	4,427	2.40%	198,079	2.30%	-193,652	0.1
Scandinavian	138	0.10%	4,377	0.10%	-4,239	0
Scotch-Irish	628	0.30%	14,021	0.20%	-13,393	0.1
Scottish	1,854	1.00%	39,035	0.50%	-37,181	0.5
Serbian	130	0.10%	6,534	0.10%	-6,404	0
Slavic	26	0.00%	3,893	0.00%	-3,867	0
Slovak	213	0.10%	6,764	0.10%	-6,551	0
Slovene	127	0.10%	1,708	0.00%	-1,581	0.1
Soviet Union	25	0.00%	501	0.00%	-476	0
Subsaharan African	5,750	3.10%	198,870	2.40%	-193,120	0.7
Cabo Verdean	80	0.00%	676	0.00%	-596	0
Ethiopian	89	0.00%	3,580	0.00%	-3,491	0
Ghanaian	349	0.20%	19,748	0.20%	-19,399	0

Kenyan	5	0.00%	814	0.00%	-809	0
Liberian	193	0.10%	2,607	0.00%	-2,414	0.1
Nigerian	1,302	0.70%	31,374	0.40%	-30,072	0.3
Senegalese	0		4,599	0.10%	-4,599	-0.1
Sierra Leonean	58	0.00%	1,085	0.00%	-1,027	0
Somali	43	0.00%	859	0.00%	-816	0
South African	118	0.10%	1,883	0.00%	-1,765	0.1
Sudanese	0		1,410	0.00%	-1,410	0
Ugandan	0		508	0.00%	-508	0
Zimbabwean	0		250	0.00%	-250	0
African	2,418	1.30%	107,555	1.30%	-105,137	0
Other Subsaharan African	1,135	0.60%	24,367	0.30%	-23,232	0.3
Swedish	1,106	0.60%	23,149	0.30%	-22,043	0.3
Swiss	388	0.20%	8,316	0.10%	-7,928	0.1
Turkish	214	0.10%	13,695	0.20%	-13,481	-0.1
Ukrainian	573	0.30%	64,635	0.80%	-64,062	-0.5
Welsh	547	0.30%	11,121	0.10%	-10,574	0.2
West Indian (except Hispanic groups)	25,320	13.60%	584,810	6.90%	-559,490	6.7
Bahamian	66	0.00%	1,534	0.00%	-1,468	0
Barbadian	1,961	1.10%	22,110	0.30%	-20,149	0.8
Belizean	174	0.10%	7,054	0.10%	-6,880	0
Bermudan	0		344	0.00%	-344	0
British West Indian	2,783	1.50%	45,617	0.50%	-42,834	1
Dutch West Indian	12	0.00%	771	0.00%	-759	0
Haitian	5,700	3.10%	121,530	1.40%	-115,830	1.7
Jamaican	6,807	3.70%	227,289	2.70%	-220,482	1
Trinidadian and Tobagonian	4,563	2.50%	72,059	0.90%	-67,496	1.6

U.S. Virgin Islander	170	0.10%	2,703	0.00%	-2,533	0.1
West Indian	3,367	1.80%	92,871	1.10%	-89,504	0.7
Other West Indian	43	0.00%	1,235	0.00%	-1,192	0
Yugoslavian	167	0.10%	7,985	0.10%	-7,818	0
Other groups	85,217	45.90%	4,498,476	53.30%	-4,413,259	-7.4
Unclassified or not reported	27,800	15.00%	1,062,483	12.60%	-1,034,683	2.4

Computers and Internet Use

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total Households	76,704	100.00%	3,154,103	100.00%	-3,077,399	0
With a computer	67,663	88.20%	2,758,928	87.50%	-2,691,265	0.7
With a broadband Internet subscription	61,572	80.30%	2,505,211	79.40%	-2,443,639	0.9

Employment Status

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Population 16 years and over	155,083	100.00%	6,860,360	100.00%	-6,705,277	0
In labor force	107,306	69.20%	4,356,776	63.50%	-4,249,470	5.7
Civilian labor force	107,306	69.20%	4,354,474	63.50%	-4,247,168	5.7
Employed	99,537	64.20%	4,053,141	59.10%	-3,953,604	5.1
Unemployed	7,769	5.00%	301,333	4.40%	-293,564	0.6
Armed Forces	0		2,302	0.00%	-2,302	0
Not in labor force	47,777	30.80%	2,503,584	36.50%	-2,455,807	-5.7
Civilian labor force	107,306	100.00%	4,354,474	100.00%	-4,247,168	0

Unemployed (percent equivalent to unemployment rate)	7,769	7.20%	301,333	6.90%	-293,564	0.3
Females 16 years and over	84,898	100.00%	3,642,664	100.00%	-3,557,766	0
In labor force	56,136	66.10%	2,130,876	58.50%	-2,074,740	7.6
Civilian labor force	56,136	66.10%	2,130,364	58.50%	-2,074,228	7.6
Employed	52,406	61.70%	1,986,266	54.50%	-1,933,860	7.2
Own children under 6 years	12,733	100.00%	619,948	100.00%	-607,215	0
All parents in family in labor force	9,043	71.00%	391,319	63.10%	-382,276	7.9
Own children 6 to 17 years	19,974	100.00%	1,060,266	100.00%	-1,040,292	0
All parents in family in labor force	14,377	72.00%	708,828	66.90%	-694,451	5.1

Commute to Work

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Workers 16 years and over	97,354	100.00%	3,953,532	100.00%	-3,856,178	0
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	8,656	8.90%	883,066	22.30%	-874,410	-13.4
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	1,983	2.00%	177,245	4.50%	-175,262	-2.5
Public transportation	67,470	69.30%	2,223,087	56.20%	-2,155,617	13.1
Walked	8,723	9.00%	392,607	9.90%	-383,884	-0.9
Other means	4,810	4.90%	112,933	2.90%	-108,123	2

Worked at home	5,712	5.90%	164,594	4.20%	-158,882	1.7
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	38.7		41.2		-2.5	

Occupation

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	99,537	100.00%	4,053,141	100.00%	-3,953,604	0
Management, business, science, and arts	54,602	54.90%	1,673,223	41.30%	-1,618,621	13.6
Service	18,357	18.40%	918,538	22.70%	-900,181	-4.3
Sales and office	18,146	18.20%	842,017	20.80%	-823,871	-2.6
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	2,815	2.80%	245,935	6.10%	-243,120	-3.3
Production, transportation, and material moving	5,617	5.60%	373,428	9.20%	-367,811	-3.6

Industry

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	99,537	100.00%	4,053,141	100.00%	-3,953,604	0
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	74	0.10%	3,870	0.10%	-3,796	0

Construction	2,286	2.30%	206,067	5.10%	-203,781	-2.8
Manufacturing	2,707	2.70%	133,626	3.30%	-130,919	-0.6
Wholesale trade	1,353	1.40%	85,255	2.10%	-83,902	-0.7
Retail trade	8,074	8.10%	378,143	9.30%	-370,069	-1.2
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4,404	4.40%	259,590	6.40%	-255,186	-2
Information	7,509	7.50%	154,804	3.80%	-147,295	3.7
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	7,859	7.90%	383,827	9.50%	-375,968	-1.6
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	18,968	19.10%	555,773	13.70%	-536,805	5.4
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	26,970	27.10%	1,080,586	26.70%	-1,053,616	0.4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation, and food services	9,908	10.00%	440,995	10.90%	-431,087	-0.9
Other services, except public administration	5,463	5.50%	218,455	5.40%	-212,992	0.1
Public administration	3,962	4.00%	152,150	3.80%	-148,188	0.2
Class of Worker						
	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	

Show Reliability Data	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	99,537	100.00%	4,053,141	100.00%	-3,953,604	0
Private wage and salary workers	77,673	78.00%	3,254,637	80.30%	-3,176,964	-2.3
Government workers	13,905	14.00%	531,808	13.10%	-517,903	0.9
Self-employed workers in own not incorporated business	7,861	7.90%	261,635	6.50%	-253,774	1.4
Unpaid family workers	98	0.10%	5,061	0.10%	-4,963	0

Income and Benefits

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total households	76,704	100.00%	3,154,103	100.00%	-3,077,399	0
Household income of less than \$10,000	6,926	9.00%	277,465	8.80%	-270,539	0.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4,689	6.10%	196,924	6.20%	-192,235	-0.1
\$15,000 to \$24,999	6,126	8.00%	297,771	9.40%	-291,645	-1.4
\$25,000 to \$34,999	5,272	6.90%	258,598	8.20%	-253,326	-1.3
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7,744	10.10%	332,258	10.50%	-324,514	-0.4
\$50,000 to \$74,999	11,047	14.40%	462,374	14.70%	-451,327	-0.3
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8,666	11.30%	345,558	11.00%	-336,892	0.3
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11,535	15.00%	440,162	14.00%	-428,627	1

\$150,000 to \$199,999	6,129	8.00%	222,014	7.00%	-215,885	1
\$200,000 or more	8,570	11.20%	320,979	10.20%	-312,409	1
Median household income (dollars)	66,366		60,762		5,604	
Mean household income (dollars)	99,221		97,647		1,574	
Households with Social Security	15,666	20.40%	821,385	26.00%	-805,719	-5.6
Households with retirement income	8,275	10.80%	401,837	12.70%	-393,562	-1.9
Households with Supplemental Security Income	5,575	7.30%	249,247	7.90%	-243,672	-0.6
Households with cash public assistance income	3,583	4.70%	137,887	4.40%	-134,304	0.3
Households with Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	13,865	18.10%	624,636	19.80%	-610,771	-1.7
Family households	37,324	100.00%	1,887,978	100.00%	-1,850,654	0
Family income of less than \$10,000	1,933	5.20%	112,405	6.00%	-110,472	-0.8
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,801	4.80%	77,738	4.10%	-75,937	0.7

\$15,000 to \$24,999	3,011	8.10%	168,362	8.90%	-165,351	-0.8
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2,683	7.20%	160,633	8.50%	-157,950	-1.3
\$35,000 to \$49,999	4,287	11.50%	210,893	11.20%	-206,606	0.3
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5,829	15.60%	287,074	15.20%	-281,245	0.4
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3,966	10.60%	214,732	11.40%	-210,766	-0.8
\$100,000 to \$149,999	5,255	14.10%	284,755	15.10%	-279,500	-1
\$150,000 to \$199,999	3,106	8.30%	148,457	7.90%	-145,351	0.4
\$200,000 or more	5,453	14.60%	222,929	11.80%	-217,476	2.8
Median family income (dollars)	70,742		68,004		2,738	
Nonfamily households	39,380	100.00%	1,266,125	100.00%	-1,226,745	0
Median nonfamily income (dollars)	59,106		45,515		13,591	
Per capita income (dollars)	41,854		37,693		4,161	
Earnings						
Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Median earnings for workers (dollars)	45,209		38,845		6,364	
Median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	60,710		54,127		6,583	

Median earnings for female full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	57,890	51,327	6,563
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Health Insurance Coverage

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Civilian noninstitutionalized population	184,514	100.00%	8,379,895	100.00%	-8,195,381	0
With health insurance coverage	173,263	93.90%	7,672,151	91.60%	-7,498,888	2.3
With private health insurance	124,041	67.20%	4,818,542	57.50%	-4,694,501	9.7
With public coverage	65,871	35.70%	3,582,878	42.80%	-3,517,007	-7.1
No health insurance coverage	11,251	6.10%	707,744	8.40%	-696,493	-2.3
Civilian noninstitutionalized population under 18 years	36,156	100.00%	1,855,028	100.00%	-1,818,872	0
No health insurance coverage	855	2.40%	49,352	2.70%	-48,497	-0.3
Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years	128,227		5,369,877		-5,241,650	
In labor force	102,446		4,102,491		-4,000,045	
Employed	95,279	100.00%	3,825,543	100.00%	-3,730,264	0

With health insurance coverage	88,673	93.10%	3,395,066	88.70%	-3,306,393	4.4
With private health insurance	77,563	81.40%	2,778,950	72.60%	-2,701,387	8.8
With public coverage	13,985	14.70%	709,097	18.50%	-695,112	-3.8
No health insurance coverage	6,606	6.90%	430,477	11.30%	-423,871	-4.4
Unemployed	7,167	100.00%	276,948	100.00%	-269,781	0
With health insurance coverage	5,864	81.80%	224,574	81.10%	-218,710	0.7
With private health insurance	2,893	40.40%	96,183	34.70%	-93,290	5.7
With public coverage	3,378	47.10%	139,298	50.30%	-135,920	-3.2
No health insurance coverage	1,303	18.20%	52,374	18.90%	-51,071	-0.7
Not in labor force	25,781	100.00%	1,267,386	100.00%	-1,241,605	0
With health insurance coverage	23,489	91.10%	1,108,889	87.50%	-1,085,400	3.6
With private health insurance	12,073	46.80%	514,091	40.60%	-502,018	6.2
With public coverage	13,447	52.20%	672,918	53.10%	-659,471	-0.9
No health insurance coverage	2,292	8.90%	158,497	12.50%	-156,205	-3.6

Income in the Past 12 Months Below Poverty Level

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
All families	37,324	100.00%	1,887,978	100.00%	-1,850,654	0
Below poverty	5,371	14.40%	294,980	15.60%	-289,609	-1.2

Population for whom poverty status is determined	181,789	100.00%	8,304,816	100.00%	-8,123,027	0
Below poverty	33,344	18.30%	1,570,754	18.90%	-1,537,410	-0.6
Under 18 years	34,116	100.00%	1,737,110	100.00%	-1,702,994	0
Below poverty	7,475	21.90%	465,069	26.80%	-457,594	-4.9
65 years and over	20,131	100.00%	1,154,990	100.00%	-1,134,859	0
Below poverty	4,147	20.60%	211,852	18.30%	-207,705	2.3

Ratio of Income to Poverty Level

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Population for whom poverty status is determined	181,789	100.00%	8,304,816	100.00%	-8,123,027	0
Under .50	16,012	8.80%	683,635	8.20%	-667,623	0.6
.50 to .74	7,906	4.30%	405,929	4.90%	-398,023	-0.6
.75 to .99	9,426	5.20%	481,190	5.80%	-471,764	-0.6
1.00 to 1.24	7,828	4.30%	431,223	5.20%	-423,395	-0.9
1.25 to 1.49	7,463	4.10%	396,682	4.80%	-389,219	-0.7
1.50 to 1.74	7,880	4.30%	373,133	4.50%	-365,253	-0.2
1.75 to 1.84	2,475	1.40%	141,732	1.70%	-139,257	-0.3
1.85 to 1.99	4,371	2.40%	203,211	2.40%	-198,840	0
2.00 to 2.99	24,306	13.40%	1,181,403	14.20%	-1,157,097	-0.8
3.00 to 3.99	18,302	10.10%	923,748	11.10%	-905,446	-1
4.00 to 4.99	17,939	9.90%	727,075	8.80%	-709,136	1.1
5.00 and over	57,881	31.80%	2,355,855	28.40%	-2,297,974	3.4

Housing Occupancy

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total housing units	83,278	100.00%	3,472,354	100.00%	-3,389,076	0
Occupied housing units	76,704	92.10%	3,154,103	90.80%	-3,077,399	1.3

Vacant housing units	6,574	7.90%	318,251	9.20%	-311,677	-1.3
Homeowner vacancy rate	1.4		1.8		-0.4	
Rental vacancy rate	3.3		3.4		-0.1	

Units in Structure

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total housing units	83,278	100.00%	3,472,354	100.00%	-3,389,076	0
1-unit, detached	1,226	1.50%	319,905	9.20%	-318,679	-7.7
1-unit, attached	3,667	4.40%	238,949	6.90%	-235,282	-2.5
2 units	8,039	9.70%	458,656	13.20%	-450,617	-3.5
3 or 4 units	11,689	14.00%	333,505	9.60%	-321,816	4.4
5 to 9 units	9,140	11.00%	228,415	6.60%	-219,275	4.4
10 to 19 units	7,859	9.40%	219,295	6.30%	-211,436	3.1
20 or more units	41,484	49.80%	1,667,213	48.00%	-1,625,729	1.8
Mobile home	109	0.10%	4,514	0.10%	-4,405	0
Boat, RV, van, etc.	65	0.10%	1,902	0.10%	-1,837	0

Year Structure Built

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total housing units	83,278	100.00%	3,472,354	100.00%	-3,389,076	0
Built 2010 or later	4,442	5.30%	76,678	2.20%	-72,236	3.1
Built 2000 to 2009	4,588	5.50%	198,788	5.70%	-194,200	-0.2
Built 1990 to 1999	1,939	2.30%	127,962	3.70%	-126,023	-1.4
Built 1980 to 1989	1,662	2.00%	164,132	4.70%	-162,470	-2.7

Built 1970 to 1979	3,291	4.00%	245,191	7.10%	-241,900	-3.1
Built 1960 to 1969	6,117	7.30%	440,499	12.70%	-434,382	-5.4
Built 1950 to 1959	6,803	8.20%	450,809	13.00%	-444,006	-4.8
Built 1940 to 1949	7,070	8.50%	354,913	10.20%	-347,843	-1.7
Built 1939 or earlier	47,366	56.90%	1,413,382	40.70%	-1,366,016	16.2

Rooms

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total housing units	83,278	100.00%	3,472,354	100.00%	-3,389,076	0
1 room	6,221	7.50%	249,334	7.20%	-243,113	0.3
2 rooms	7,350	8.80%	217,843	6.30%	-210,493	2.5
3 rooms	22,551	27.10%	858,518	24.70%	-835,967	2.4
4 rooms	22,448	27.00%	897,981	25.90%	-875,533	1.1
5 rooms	12,467	15.00%	575,537	16.60%	-563,070	-1.6
6 rooms	5,647	6.80%	333,731	9.60%	-328,084	-2.8
7 rooms	1,928	2.30%	138,753	4.00%	-136,825	-1.7
8 rooms	1,714	2.10%	81,508	2.30%	-79,794	-0.2
9 rooms or more	2,952	3.50%	119,149	3.40%	-116,197	0.1
Median rooms	3.7		4		-0.3	

Housing Tenure

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Occupied housing units	76,704	100.00%	3,154,103	100.00%	-3,077,399	0
Owner-occupied	17,541	22.90%	1,029,840	32.70%	-1,012,299	-9.8
Renter-occupied	59,163	77.10%	2,124,263	67.30%	-2,065,100	9.8

Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.66		2.85		-0.19	
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	2.26		2.51		-0.25	

Year Householder Moved Into Unit

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Occupied housing units	76,704	100.00%	3,154,103	100.00%	-3,077,399	0
Moved in 2010 or later	37,210	48.50%	1,341,699	42.50%	-1,304,489	6
Moved in 2000 to 2009	17,374	22.70%	830,839	26.30%	-813,465	-3.6
Moved in 1990 to 1999	9,718	12.70%	460,385	14.60%	-450,667	-1.9
Moved in 1989 or earlier	12,402	16.20%	521,180	16.50%	-508,778	-0.3

Vehicles Available

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Occupied housing units	76,704	100.00%	3,154,103	100.00%	-3,077,399	0
No vehicles available	52,626	68.60%	1,721,745	54.60%	-1,669,119	14
1 vehicle available	20,969	27.30%	999,159	31.70%	-978,190	-4.4
2 vehicles available	2,567	3.30%	337,508	10.70%	-334,941	-7.4
3 or more vehicles available	542	0.70%	95,691	3.00%	-95,149	-2.3

Occupants per Room

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Occupied housing units	76,704	100.00%	3,154,103	100.00%	-3,077,399	0

1.00 or less	71,983	93.80%	2,869,497	91.00%	-2,797,514	2.8
1.01 or more	4,721	6.20%	284,606	9.00%	-279,885	-2.8
1.51 or more	2,061	2.70%	111,644	3.50%	-109,583	-0.8

Value

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Owner-occupied units	17,541	100.00%	1,029,840	100.00%	-1,012,299	0
Less than \$50,000	505	2.90%	33,465	3.20%	-32,960	-0.3
\$50,000 to \$99,999	201	1.10%	14,611	1.40%	-14,410	-0.3
\$100,000 to \$149,999	254	1.40%	20,999	2.00%	-20,745	-0.6
\$150,000 to \$199,999	240	1.40%	27,227	2.60%	-26,987	-1.2
\$200,000 to \$299,999	709	4.00%	74,283	7.20%	-73,574	-3.2
\$300,000 to \$499,999	1,987	11.30%	268,563	26.10%	-266,576	-14.8
\$500,000 to \$999,999	6,664	38.00%	406,953	39.50%	-400,289	-1.5
\$1,000,000 or more	6,981	39.80%	183,739	17.80%	-176,758	22
Median (dollars)	851,420		570,500		280,920	

Mortgage Status

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Owner-occupied units	17,541	100.00%	1,029,840	100.00%	-1,012,299	0
Housing units with a mortgage	11,663	66.50%	607,211	59.00%	-595,548	7.5
Housing units without a mortgage	5,878	33.50%	422,629	41.00%	-416,751	-7.5

Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Housing units with a mortgage (excluding units where SMOCAPI cannot be computed)	11,638	100.00%	603,062	100.00%	-591,424	0
Less than 20.0 percent	4,366	37.50%	203,346	33.70%	-198,980	3.8
20.0 to 24.9 percent	1,537	13.20%	72,514	12.00%	-70,977	1.2
25.0 to 29.9 percent	1,173	10.10%	59,073	9.80%	-57,900	0.3
30.0 to 34.9 percent	732	6.30%	45,788	7.60%	-45,056	-1.3
35.0 percent or more	3,830	32.90%	222,341	36.90%	-218,511	-4
Not computed	25		4,149		-4,124	
Housing unit without a mortgage (excluding units where SMOCAPI cannot be computed)	5,783	100.00%	416,370	100.00%	-410,587	0
Less than 10.0 percent	2,662	46.00%	171,191	41.10%	-168,529	4.9
10.0 to 14.9 percent	951	16.40%	61,830	14.80%	-60,879	1.6
15.0 to 19.9 percent	612	10.60%	40,494	9.70%	-39,882	0.9
20.0 to 24.9 percent	280	4.80%	28,114	6.80%	-27,834	-2
25.0 to 29.9 percent	233	4.00%	20,385	4.90%	-20,152	-0.9

30.0 to 34.9 percent	148	2.60%	16,215	3.90%	-16,067	-1.3
35.0 percent or more	897	15.50%	78,141	18.80%	-77,244	-3.3
Not computed	95		6,259		-6,164	

Gross Rent

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Occupied units paying rent	57,967	100.00%	2,064,838	100.00%	-2,006,871	0
Less than \$500	6,060	10.50%	224,541	10.90%	-218,481	-0.4
\$500 to \$999	8,939	15.40%	321,465	15.60%	-312,526	-0.2
\$1,000 to \$1,499	14,582	25.20%	619,998	30.00%	-605,416	-4.8
\$1,500 to \$1,999	11,239	19.40%	442,539	21.40%	-431,300	-2
\$2,000 to \$2,499	6,639	11.50%	206,669	10.00%	-200,030	1.5
\$2,500 to \$2,999	5,328	9.20%	102,402	5.00%	-97,074	4.2
\$3,000 or more	5,180	8.90%	147,224	7.10%	-142,044	1.8
Median (dollars)	1,477		1,396		81	
No rent paid	1,196		59,425		-58,229	

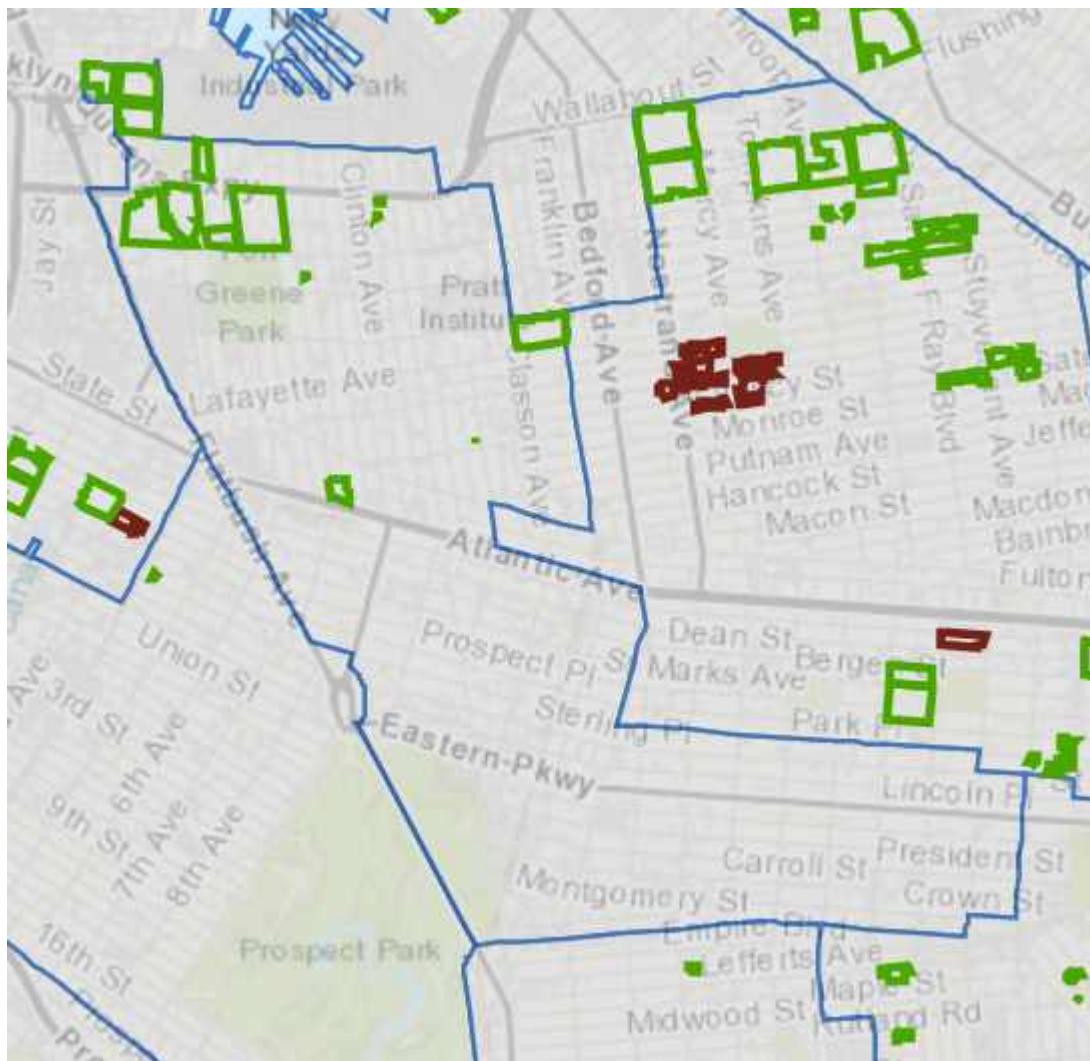
Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income (GRAPI)

Show Reliability Data	Selected Area		New York City		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Occupied units paying rent (excluding units where GRAPI cannot be computed)	56,835	100.00%	2,014,830	100.00%	-1,957,995	0

Less than 15.0 percent	7,478	13.20%	273,663	13.60%	-266,185	-0.4
15.0 to 19.9 percent	7,098	12.50%	222,841	11.10%	-215,743	1.4
20.0 to 24.9 percent	7,765	13.70%	228,606	11.30%	-220,841	2.4
25.0 to 29.9 percent	7,172	12.60%	211,796	10.50%	-204,624	2.1
30.0 to 34.9 percent	5,332	9.40%	188,082	9.30%	-182,750	0.1
35.0 percent or more	21,990	38.70%	889,842	44.20%	-867,852	-5.5
50.0 percent or more	14,124	24.90%	584,722	29.00%	-570,598	-4.1
Not computed	2,328		109,433		-107,105	

Housing

Rent Stabilized Units: 24,019



NYCHA Developments

FARRAGUT Residential Buildings: 10 Total Units: 1,390 Total Population: 3,208	INGERSOLL Residential Buildings: 20 Total Units: 1,840 Total Population: 4,318	WHITMAN Residential Buildings: 15 Total Units: 1,659 Total Population: 3,943
LAFAYETTE Residential Buildings: 7 Total Units: 882 Total Population: 2,478	ATLANTIC TERMINAL SITE 4B Residential Buildings: 1 Total Units: 300 Total Population: 606	FHA REPOSSESSED HOUSES (GROUP IX) Residential Buildings: 18 Total Units: 40 Total Population: 37

News

Representatives

City Council

[Laurie Cumbo](#)

NYS Assembly

[Diana C. Richardson](#)

[Tremaine Wright](#)

[Walter T. Mosley](#)

[Jo Anne Simon](#)

[Joseph R. Lentol](#)

NYS Senate

[Brian Kavanagh](#)

[Velmanette Montgomery](#)

[Zellnor Myrie](#)

[Kevin Parker](#)

US House of Representatives

[Nydia Velázquez](#)

[Hakeem Jeffries](#)

[Yvette Clarke](#)

NYCHA

[Farragut](#)

[Ingersoll](#)

[Whitman](#)

[Lafayette](#)

[Atlantic Terminal](#)

[FHA Repossessed Houses](#)

Voter Information

- DSA Membership: 734
- Registered Democrats: 101,589
- Voter Turnout
2017 Primary Totals

10,421 Laurie Cumbo
18,146 Total Turnout
18% Turnout Rate

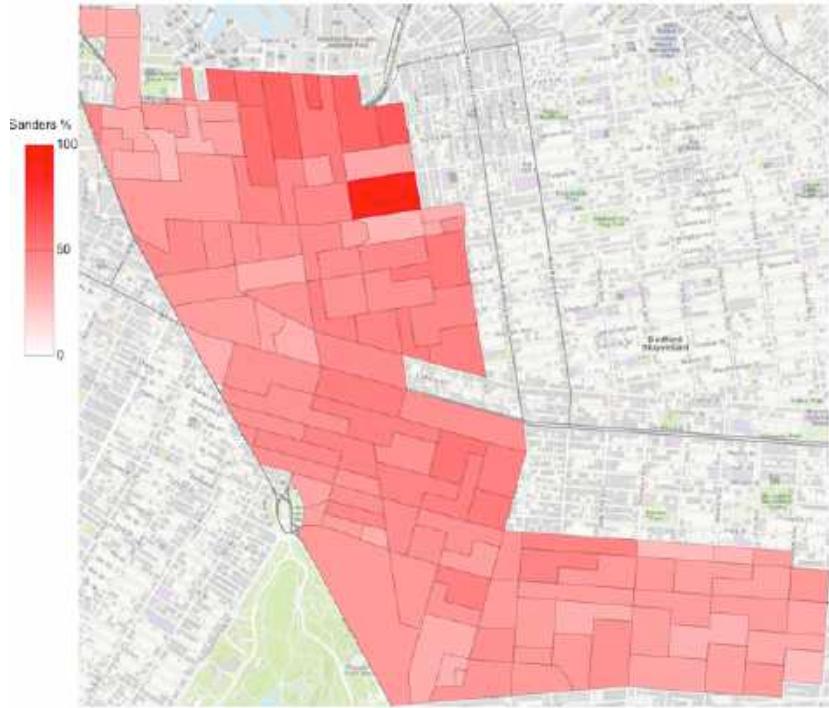
2013 Primary Totals
7,561 Laurie Cumbo
20,859 Total Turnout
21% Turnout Rate

Election Results (Progressive Candidates)

[ED Map](#)

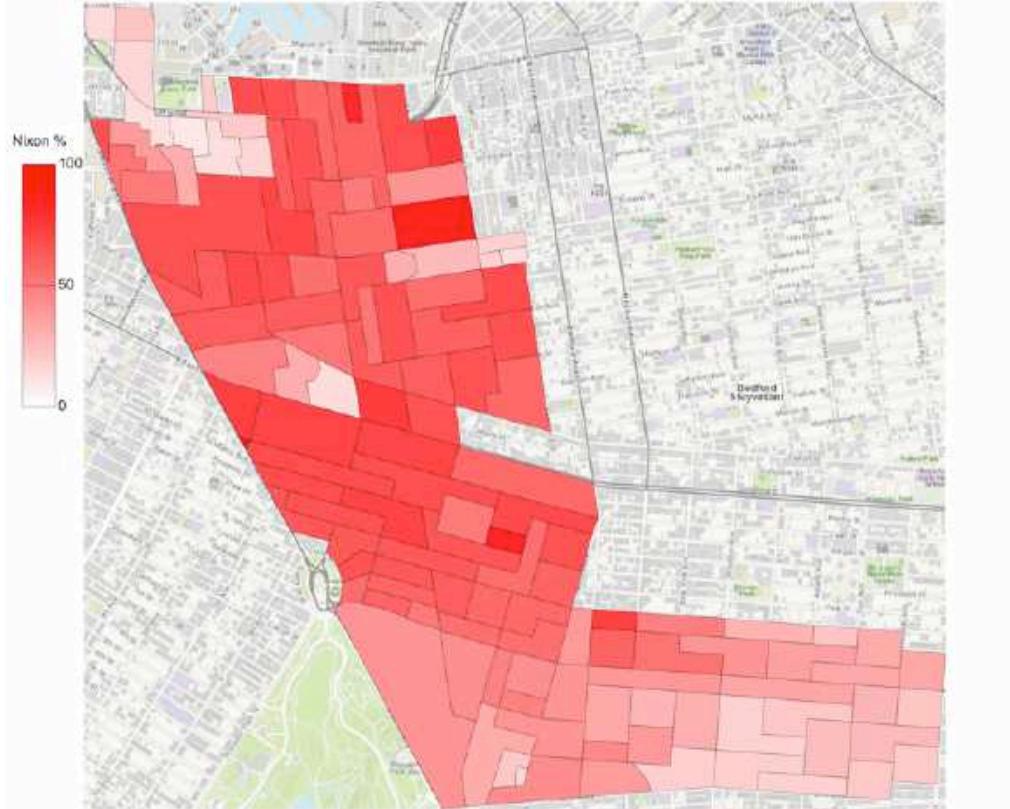
Presidential Primary 2016

	Sanders	Clinton	Total
District count	13,991	19,671	33,662
District %	41.6%	58.4%	100.0%
Kings County count	123,876	183,665	307,541
Kings County %	40.3%	59.7%	100.0%



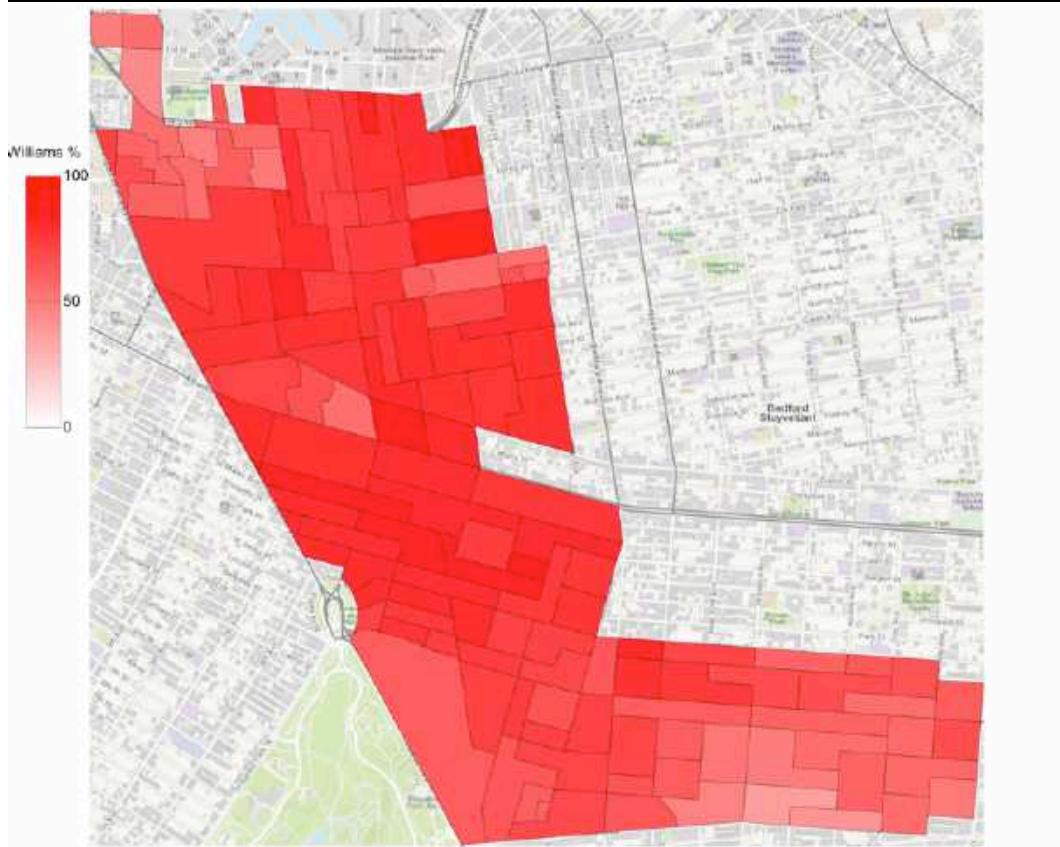
Governor Primary 2018

	Nixon	Cuomo	Write-in	Total
District count	17,852	17,083	92	35,027
District %	51.0%	48.8%	0.3%	100.0%
Kings County count	116,564	187,831	979	305,374
Kings County %	38.2%	61.5%	0.3%	100.0%

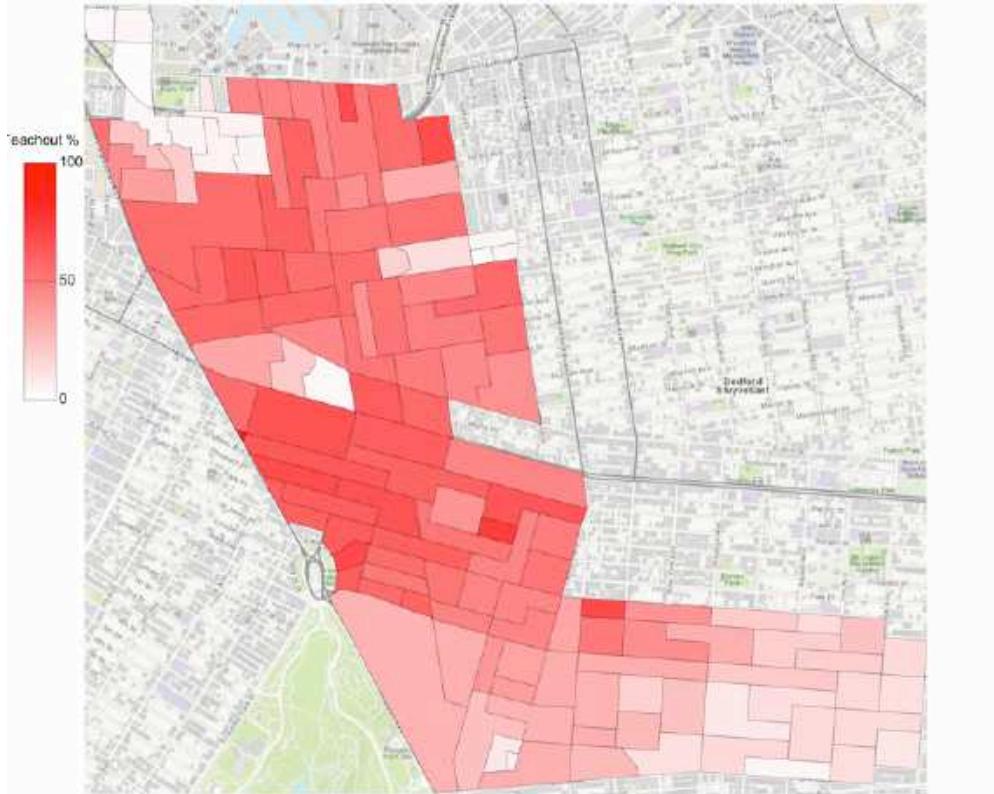


Lt. Governor Primary 2018

	Williams	Hochul	Write-in	Total
District count	23,847	9,009	40	32,896
District %	72.5%	27.4%	0.1%	100.0%
Kings County count	174,781	100,799	581	276,161
Kings County %	63.3%	36.5%	0.2%	100.0%



	Teachout	James	Maloney	Write-in/Other	Total
District count	14,470	17,586	2,222	472	34,750
District %	41.6%	50.6%	6.4%	1.4%	100.0%
Kings County count	91,916	163,715	36,002	5,367	297,000
Kings County %	30.9%	55.1%	12.1%	1.8%	100.0%



Basic Power Mapping - Organizations, Electeds, Political Clubs

Overlapping Electeds/Political Jurisdictions

NYS Assembly

- Diana C. Richardson
 - Bio: Diana Richardson [won](#) her seat in a special election in 2015. Richardson was able to break through on the Working Families Party line, due in part to the absence of a Democrat on the ballot. She replaced Karim Camara, who resigned to join the Cuomo administration. She ran on a platform of “protecting and building affordable housing”. She was [recruited](#) by the Crown Heights Tenant Union. Richardson was a key supporter of the HSTPA of 2019
 - Home club: Community Board 9, WFP

- Alliances:
- Stefani Zinerman (presumptive)
 - Bio: [Zinerman](#) is a former pastor who has worked as Director of Special Projects for retiring State Senator Montgomery and a chief of staff to City Council Member Robert Cornegy. She was the hand picked successor to Tremaine Wright.
 - Home club: VIDA
 - Alliances: Tremaine Wright, Robert Cornegy, Velmanette Montgomery, Al Vann, Rodneyse Bichotte
- Phara Souffrant Forrest
 - Bio: Newly elected in 2020 session, Forrest unseated incumbent Walter Mosley III. Phara was arrested with other tenants during an action at the State Capitol in June. She is a Union Nurse and will certainly be a powerful ally in Albany.
 - Home club: DSA, Crown Heights Tenant Union
 - Alliances: Julia Salazar, Jabari Brisport, Marcela Mitaynes, Zohran Mamdani
- Jo Anne Simon
 - Bio: Simon entered public life in 2004 when she was elected female District Leader and State Committeewoman for the 52nd Assembly District. She [ran](#) an unsuccessful bid for Brooklyn's 33rd City Council district in 2009, where she was endorsed by the NYT and lost to Steve Levin. She announced she would run for Joan Millman's seat in May of 2014 and won 53% of the vote. Her primary challenger, Peter J. Sikora, ran in the general election on the Working Families line. Sikora, a member of CWA, seems to have had a lot of support in this race, Bill de Blasio, Brad Lander, former State Senator Daniel Squadron, and the Independent Neighborhood Democrats all endorsed him. She has publicly backed some of our policy goals such as the HALT Solitary Confinement Act and started her law career in disability civil rights.
 - Home club: Boerum Hill Association
 - Alliances: Scott Stringer, Nydia Velazquez
- Emily Gallagher
 - Bio: Gallagher is an incoming assemblymember for the 50th Assembly District. She ousted Joe Lentol who had held the seat since the mid 70's. While at CB1, Gallagher focused on issues such as bike lanes, sexual assault, environmental sustainability, housing justice, and transit improvement. She participated in various NoBkPipeline [actions](#) in 2020. She is a Master's candidate in Public Administration at Baruch College. Her research involves sewage overflow and superfund sites. She ran for district leader in 2016, losing by 344 votes.
 - Home club: Brooklyn Community Board 1, New Kings Democrats
 - Alliances: Possible DSA member in good standing.

NYS Senate

- Brian Kavanagh
 - Bio: Kavanagh [received](#) the democratic nomination for State Senate in 2017 when former Brooklyn party boss Frank Seddio decided to forgo an election and instead allocate all of the party votes to Kavanagh. Previously an Assembly Member in the East Village (now Harvey Epstein's seat), Kavanagh is best known for his work on fair election reform and gun safety laws. Is chair of the Housing Committee and was a target of the Universal Rent Control campaign for not hearing the bills and watering down some of the language.
 - Home club: Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats, CoDA
 - Alliances: Daniel Squadron

- Jabari Brisport
 - Bio: Brisport ran an unsuccessful bid against incumbent Laurie Cumbo for the 35th District city council seat in 2017. In 2020 he won the seat vacated by retiring Velmanette Montgomery. He is a supporter of universal rent control, public schools, the NY Health Act, and many of our other policy goals.
 - Home club: DSA
 - Alliances: Julia Salazar, Phara Souffrant Forrest, Marcela Mitaynes, Zohran Mamdani
- Zellnor Myrie
 - Bio: Myrie unseated former IDC Assemblyman Jesse Hamilton in 2018 and publicly supported ending qualified immunity for police officers, the HSTPA of 2019 and was a cosponsor of Gianaris' Cancel Rent bill. Myrie pledged not to accept donations from the real estate industry, but in fact has accepted over \$10,000 in his short tenure.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances:
- Kevin Parker
 - Bio: After Parker ran and lost in a very crowded city council field in 2001 he ran for a newly drawn State Senate seat and won with only 35% of the vote. Parker's tenure has been mired with angry outbursts and even assaults. He's been accused of punching a traffic cop in the face, assaulting a primary challenger, shoving a legislative staffer, and fracturing the finger of a New York Post reporter/ photographer. If any of these charges had led to a felony charge Parker would have lost his senate seat. He drew his first primary since 2008 this year, but it appears his opponent, Josue Pierre, was pressured to drop out and run instead for a vacant City Council seat. Parker is the majority whip in the Democratic conference.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Parker has been in office a long time and even with his outbursts has successfully built alliances with many elected officials at all levels of the democratic party.

US House of Representatives

- Nydia Velázquez
 - Bio: Velazquez has been in congress since 1993. She was appointed to the NYC City Council in 1984, but lost to a challenger the following year. She was primaried from the left by Jeff Kurzon in 2014. During the race Kurzon was critical of Velazquez's ties with the banking and financial service industries, however she won the primary by a large margin. She was an early endorser of Bernie Sanders for President and is a frequent collaborator with AOC.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances:
- Hakeem Jeffries
 - Bio: Former Assemblyman for district 57 2007-2012, Jeffries had made unsuccessful bids for the 57th seat in 2000 and 2002. He was elected in 2006 after Roger Green retired to run in the 10th congressional district. Jeffries was elected to congress in 2012 and is the co-chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee. In 2019 Jeffries was successfully pressured into cosponsoring Medicare for All by the NYC DSA Healthcare Working Group. He endorsed and participated in GOTV against DSA and for incumbents Tremaine Wright and Walter Mosley.
 - Home club: Brooklyn Freedom Democratic Association
 - Alliances: Walter Mosley, VIDA, Robert Cornegy III, Tremaine Wright

- Yvette Clarke
 - Bio: Clark was elected to New York City Council in 2001. She succeeded her mother, former City Council member Una S. T. Clarke, who held the seat for more than a decade. In her 13 years in Congress, she hasn't made noise on anything in particular. A generally reliable Democratic vote, in 2010, she broke ranks and was one of 36 Democrats to vote against a Democrat-sponsored bill to enhance disclosure requirements for corporate spending in elections. She does support some of our policy goals such as Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, and abolishing ICE.
 - Home club: Progressive Democrats Political Association in Brooklyn (Clarke's mother is president)
 - Alliances: Hakeem Jeffries, Bill de Blasio

Community Boards

- CB 2 Bk
 - Neighborhoods covered: Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Fort Greene, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Clinton Hill
 - Major issues: Brooklyn Bridge bikelane, Atlantic Avenue jail, BQE
 - Key figures: Lenue H. Singletary
- CB 3 Bk
 - Neighborhoods covered: Bedford-Stuyvesant, Stuyvesant Heights, Ocean Hill
 - Major issues: deed theft, Reopening subway entrances, Urban Development Action Areas
 - Key figures: Richard Flateau
- CB 6 Bk
 - Neighborhoods covered: South Crown Heights, Prospect, Lefferts Gardens, Wingate
 - Major issues: renewable energy infrastructure, Gowanus & Redhook revitalization.
 - Key figures: Peter D. Fleming
- CB 8 Bk
 - Neighborhoods covered: Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Weeksville
 - Major issues: M-Crown rezoning recommendation
 - Key figures: Ethel Tyus
- CB 9 Bk
 - Neighborhoods covered: Crown Heights, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Wingate
 - Major issues: Flatbush Ave bike lane, rezoning of 960 Franklin Avenue
 - Key figures: Patricia Baker

Political Clubs

- Vanguard Independent Democratic Association
 - <http://www.vidabk.com/>
 - Henry L. Butler
- Progressive Association for Political Action
 - Marilyn Mosley (Walter T Mosley)

Organizations

- Movement to Protect the People
 - <http://www.mtopp.org/home.html>
 - Anti-gentrification org
 - Mainly concerned with upzoning battles
- Flatbush Tenant Coalition
 - <https://flatbushpower.org/>
 - member-led group of tenant associations in Flatbush, East Flatbush, and South Crown Heights
- New York Communities For Change
 - <https://www.nycommunities.org/>

History of DSA Activism in this District

Jabari Brisport ran an unsuccessful bid to oust Cumbo on the Green Party ticket in 2017. He received 29% of the vote to Cumbo's 67%.

Jabari led a protest against Cumbo in 2020 urging her to vote no on the NYC Budget that did not include meaningful cuts to the NYPD. He will be a freshman state senator in 2021.

The District almost completely overlaps with Assembly District 57, where Phara Souffrant Forrest is our incoming assemblymember.

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District 39

Brandon West

NYC-DSA City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2021

Thank you for applying for an endorsement with the New York City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. If you have any questions about this document or the endorsement process feel free to email us at endorsements@socialists.nyc. And please return the completed questionnaire by August 15, 2020.

A. DSA and Democratic Socialism

1. Are you a member of DSA? If not, would you join?

Yes, I signed up for YDSA (YDS) in 2005, but became more involved in 2017. I am an active member of AfroSoc, and a member of the Socialist Majority Caucus. I was also elected Alternate Delegate for NYC-DSA for the 2019 National Convention in Atlanta, and was a Delegate for CBK for the NYC Convention in 2020.

2. What is your theory of social change?

Everything has to do with power: who has it and who doesn't. These distinctions of power always fall along lines of class, and often of race and identity. To create social change, and empower the most people, we must break down the current systems of power, the private control of capital and the ways that capitalists control institutions and government to protect it. Also bringing in the most people to that alternative world, where working people own power, and don't need connections or money to access more robust forms of democracy, is critical. We can't have real democracy under a system where government is essentially dictated by private actors pursuing growth of their wealth. We need to move towards more collective ownership, and all of our structures need to exist to ensure that this is protected.

3. How does the campaign you are planning and the elected position you are considering relate to your theory of social change? How do you see electoral politics advancing socialism?

There is a real dearth of political will to bring about real change in our local government. The City Council is capable of having more direct influence on people's daily lives. Despite not having jurisdiction on several important issues, it is not hamstrung by the same politics which currently limit change at the state level, like the consolidation of power by Andrew Cuomo. But, its systems and structures are opaque, and often electeds protect themselves and their careers by not fighting for anything transformative. City Council has its most influence in the budget and land use processes. Housing and agency priorities are some of the most

impactful things in the everyday lives of New Yorkers, even in District 39. They are also some of the least understood things in government. Rather than democratizing access to information, electeds act as gatekeepers, maintaining a city order where the interests of the powerful dominate, inside and outside of government. This diminishes the power of working class New Yorkers in their neighborhoods and across the city, bolstering a particularly toxic form of racial capitalism which distracts and divides. I see electoral politics as a way to dismantle this dynamic, and really bring working people into our budget decisions, the decommodification of housing, and the abolition of the police state. With these changes, we can begin to collectively own both the means of production, and the distribution of goods and services within our city.

I don't think that a solely electoral strategy of "ballot box socialism" will give us the world we want, but I think it's one of the sharpest tools we have at this very moment. We must use it in concert with other forms of mass mobilization, base building, and organizing. We have to create fertile ground in which something more revolutionary can be grown, and I think the City Council can be a path to that locally.

4. Do you identify as a socialist?

Yes. I began learning about socialism gradually since high school. I started to identify as a socialist in college, when I began to organize more explicitly with the Green Party and started a local chapter.

5. What does socialism mean to you?

To bring democratic rule to the economy, so that we can house, feed, and support all people.

I think it's really important to distinguish socialism from social democracy. Increasing social welfare programs, but leaving power in the hands of the few who would profit off our labor, and where we are not in control of our work spaces, is not socialism. I believe socialism is when the people own the means of production, distribution, and exchange of goods and services. When the workers collectively own the places they work—everything attached to those jobs—and society collectively decides how to distribute the things we produce, then we are moving towards socialism.

6. Are you willing to run publicly as a socialist?

Yes; I already am and will continue to do so.

7. Will you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a slate?

Yes, absolutely.

8. Will you publicize DSA's endorsement?

Yes, proudly.

9. How does your candidacy represent the district you intend to run in, along with NYC-DSA?

I am a Black man, running in a predominantly white district, where there is significant wealth, but also still communities of marginalized people of color. This has never been lost on me. Political power in the 39th is held mostly in Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, and, to a lesser degree, in Windsor Terrace. There are many communities—including Gowanus Houses and the surrounding areas, Kensington, Borough Park—where people's needs are often overshadowed by more affluent white folks who have access to their elected officials, and dominate public dialogue and debate, and define the district as being exclusively the needs of a certain type of Brownstone Brooklynite.

I have deep love for my community and have also seen massive displays of support and solidarity for the marginalized after Sandy, during this pandemic, and in support of Black lives. People do come together, and I'm seeing it more now than ever.

While working part-time in a legislator's office in the district, I saw first-hand the breadth of issues people needed help with. Either they were getting evicted, or they needed help getting resources for their family. In the 39th, there are many people who struggle who are at or near the poverty level, and are getting pushed out from a community where many have had roots for a long time. They belong in this community as much as anyone else.

I'm running to challenge this, and do so through a frame of deep systemic change, centered on specific policy. Living here for more than 10 years, I have seen the people who have historically existed at the margins of the district's politics. They live largely more difficult lives, and they don't feel enfranchised. I've come to believe that broken windows policing was designed in large part to improve the quality of life for affluent New Yorkers at the expense of the poor and marginalized. I want to run to change the political calculus in this district and around the city, to collectively demonstrate what real social change can mean. My theory of change aligns with NYC-DSA. We seek the same goals.

10. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from for-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs?

Yes.

11. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords?

Yes.

12. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions or endorsements from organizations in the carceral system (such as law enforcement unions)?

Yes.

13. Are you open to working with DSA when developing your platform?

Yes.

14. Will you allow the DSA Electoral Working Group to create campaign materials to distribute during its work on your campaign?

Yes.

15. DSA has a large and active volunteer base. Will you support DSA training our own volunteers, running our own canvases, and campaigning openly as DSA members?

Yes; I would welcome it.

16. Who will be running your field program?

The campaign is still building out after the July filing, and my advisory team and I are actively looking for a person with experience in running field programs, with an eye towards experience in activating previously unengaged New Yorkers and Leftist politics.

17. Will you allow DSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program?

Yes.

18. Will you allow DSA to keep copies of all data we collect through voter contact?

Yes.

19. What staff and/or consultants have you hired?

Our team is all volunteer, at the moment. We are in the process of hiring for strategic and communications work. We are leaning towards people who have worked for candidates of color and other DSA candidates. We will have people in place before the beginning of the new year.

20. What voter contact program are you using for your campaign?

Right now we are using mostly Reach, and plan on using VAN and the normal suite of voter contact programs. We are focusing on relational organizing at the moment.

21. In past campaigns, DSA has had teams of member-organizers who work directly with campaign staff on areas such as field, communications, fundraising, data, and legal compliance. Will you agree to this arrangement and guarantee that your staff will build direct relationships with members of our campaign team?

Yes, we would.

B. Goals of Your Campaign

1. What is your estimated number of votes needed to win?

Because of RCV, we are planning to be flexible in understanding what our win number will be. We anticipate ~30,000 votes in this election, but it could be a bit more or less than that. We think we need to get around 11,000 “first choice” votes and pick up 5,000 “second choice” votes after a few rounds of elimination. Depending on how many rumored candidates enter the race, we may increase our “second choice” votes as a part of the win calculation. We are trying to consider how popular RCV is if it is rolled out in this election. The 39th is a high information voter district, but we don’t think that all voters will utilize RCV. We also are trying to be prepared for if for whatever reason RCV is delayed and not used for our election.

2. What is the central message of your campaign?

I’m running to create a district and city where working people own power, and don’t need connections or money to have access to our democracy. To make sure everyone’s needs are met will require a radical change and a deep focus on transformative policy and community base building, work that I have been doing for years.

We have to completely rethink what role Council fills within our government, and in office I will push for radical changes to land use, community safety, and government budgeting to create a real people's budget. We must put power back in the hands of people and fight austerity that is being pushed onto us by a Mayor and Council Speaker.

3. What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates?

Because of my experience at City Council Finance and at the Office of Management and Budget, I have an understanding of policy and government that is critical to knowing how to dismantle systems.

I also have years of leftist organizing experience, including time working on police abolition within Occupy City Hall. I have a strong understanding of not just the behind the scenes policy world, but the movement building space. I've put my life on the line, literally, for the causes I care about, and I believe I can get on the ground running once in City Hall.

4. How will your campaign appeal to working class voters and those disaffected with the political process?

We are going to center power and those disaffected into all of our messaging. This is the perspective in which I believe I want to run this campaign to the fullest extent. I believe that working people want to have power within the political process. Because the landscape shuts out people, there are fewer strong independent community institutions, and because unions have been continually undermined, people often have no access point to the political process, so they become more focused on just meeting their day-to-day needs.

I believe people are capable of leading themselves, they don't need saviors to do the work for them. So this is not about convincing people how I alone will change everything. It's about how we can collectively demystify governing, and allow community groups and everyday people to better advocate for their needs collectively. I do not want to be a gatekeeper.

We are headed towards a tough few years in New York. We are going to talk about how we can take back control of our city, have our agencies prioritize the programs that people need and rely on, give people more power in their workplaces and stick to a message on how we make sure working people not only have what they need, but are thriving.

5. What party lines will you be seeking for the general election? Have you applied for the endorsement of the Working Families Party? Have you sought the endorsement of your county Democratic Committee?

I will be running on the Democratic Party line in the general. I plan to apply for the endorsement of the Working Families Party. I also may be open to being on the Green Party line as well. I do not want the endorsement of the county Democratic Committee. I have a long history of opposing the leadership of the Kings County Democratic Party through my time in the leadership of the New Kings Democrats.

6. How do you plan to approach Ranked-choice Voting?

We plan on pretty early on asking for both first and second choice votes. We plan on running a more expansive outreach to try and be as many people's second choice votes as possible. So we are looking at how campaigns in other cities have navigated this, but we believe this will involve trying to connect to more electorates within the district. We fully anticipate trying to lean into RCV, and educating as many people as possible about the program as we can.

I have also considered that in other cities that adopted RCV, candidates have tried to build a coalition within a race between like-minded candidates, or between candidates of color. We have not made a firm decision on if that is something we want to do, or can, in this race.

7. How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race and what is your plan to raise it?

We are anticipating that as many as six campaigns will hit the full match threshold for campaign finance. So we anticipate that we need to do the same, and are on track to do so around the beginning of petitioning. Because of the spending thresholds, this will level the playing field since all of these campaigns will be spending the same amount in 2021 before the primary.

We already have about \$150k, which is including the projected matching we raised. We have averaged \$15k over the course of a filing. Also, about half of the donations we bring in are matchable. We will hit that threshold and have more money than we can legally spend in 2021. Our plan is to use relational organizing and our networks, with organic donations, which have increased sharply in the last few months. We will focus on trying to get small donations within the district through more actions and policy explainers, who have helped us reach previous fundraising goals.

8. What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work or personal networks?

I was president of the New Kings Democrats for two years, and developed a lot of relationships with people who can become a base of support since a bulk of NKD's members are now in this part of central Brooklyn. Also from being involved in local politics, I have connected with important figures within all of the legislative offices, as well as important groups like the Park Slope Civic Council, Community Board 6, and CEC 15. I also know people who work in political organizations like VOCAL that have a visible presence in the district.

My current job at the Center for Popular Democracy has led to me connecting with many organizers and political organizations, a few of which also have members in the district. I have relationships with the leaders of Make the Road, CUFFH, NYCC, WFP and several nonpartisan democracy groups, who also have a significant number of members in the district like the Brooklyn Voters Alliance.

9. What endorsements do you have from elected officials, political organizations, unions and community leaders?

I intend to ask for endorsements of some local elected officials and candidates that I have strong relationships with. None of these endorsements have been finalized as of date. I also have the support of a legislator in whose district overlaps with the 39th, but they are formally staying out of the race. There are several District Leaders who I have relationships with and will seek endorsements from soon.

10. How do you see yourself acting as a movement candidate? What does that mean to you?

Being a movement candidate means letting the activist community be the center of gravity of your work. I see this as regularly going back to this community of organizers for the source of strategy and energy as critical. I believe often, candidates may see themselves as movement candidates, and then get in office and then are constantly weighing what is politically savvy for themselves. For me this means really working closely to the advocates that are pushing for the most expansive change.

There are a lot of larger organizations that struggle to navigate their political relationships, or are in ways beholden to the nonprofit industrial complex to stay afloat. I believe this makes this work much harder, but I believe the folks on the ground doing the work have the best understanding of what change they need to bring for their community.

Being a movement candidate means working tirelessly with others to achieve that vision.

C. Goals in Office

1. If elected, you'll be one of a few representatives who support a Democratic Socialist vision for our city. How will you work with other democratic socialists and allies in the City Council and other bodies (such as the state legislature) to form a unified and effective democratic socialist movement in the New York government?

I think we need to immediately coalesce around specific policy goals and utilize the speaker's race as a way to get socialists in important committee chair positions. I think a group of 7-10 socialists in City Council voting and coordinating as a bloc can have an impact on important decisions, including the budget. I think if we prioritize a radical charter revision process, we can begin to make significant steps in changing our city.

I think our goals are quite clear, and the people are supportive of defunding the police, public power, and other socialist policy ideas. There will be a lot of new Councilmembers, and the dynamic will drastically change from the previous class of legislators. We absolutely have to capitalize on this, and I want to work to build a consensus early on with like-minded Council members on which tools we want to leverage early into the new term, and set the tone. I think we will often need to coordinate on issues with our comrades in the state legislature, which means we need to connect on what is possible with increasing revenue by taxing the rich, drastic changes to transportation, and other policies that require state action like education. I think we just need to all come together and think how we want to leverage our positions together so we have the largest impact.

2. Beyond contributing significantly to capacity in field, fundraising and other aspects of the campaign, would you be open to having DSA members as staff in policy positions and/or to collaborating with our working groups on policy?

Yes, definitely.

- Do you know any members you'd feel confident could act in these positions?

I have a relationship with several DSA members, and would very much look forward to working with them.

- Do you have a relationship with any of our working groups?

I stay up to date on the working groups through the branch monthly meetings and the emails. I have tried to stay more connected to Racial Justice, and Ecosocialists' Public Power campaign.

3. What would the role of constituent services staff in your district be?

It's very important, and it needs to remain a major part of the office. I've done constituent services before, so I would want to hire staff who are good at this work, and show the patience and dedication to meet community needs where possible. I also see it as something that's different from mutual aid, because a legislator can't offer mutual aid because they sit in a position of power.

So I feel constituent services staff would need to create the programs and events that meet the needs of people in the community, and be as creative as possible about how to do that. It involves trying to find answers to problems that exist in the community and crafting new ways to leverage services and resources to solve those problems. Often this comes in the form of providing information on how to leverage the state and local government for services, but it also needs to be based on developing relationships with key community groups. I also see it as an important way to connect directly with people, and not create too many barriers between the legislator and the people who they would serve.

4. Do you think there is a role for district staff in creating a climate for radical political change?

Absolutely. I believe the district staff need to be organizers themselves. All of the work of the office, from legislative work to constituent services, needs to be centered around creating the environment for the people to push for radical political change in the future. All of the work should be interconnected and framed around how we bring about the environment for revolution to come forth. It's not something where we pick at pieces and marginally "reform" things, and magically end up in a world where everyone's needs are met.

5. Will you agree to appear periodically at monthly DSA branch meetings in your district?

Yes, I would prioritize them.

6. Will you join a Democratic Socialist caucus in the City Council?

Yes, I think this is critical, and I would work to get as many peers in the Council as I could to join.

7. If elected, what are your top 3 legislative priorities?

1) Passing a bill to create a radical charter revision commission focused on a full slate of systemic reforms around a socialist vision. Among other things, this should include creating a counterweight to the Department of City Planning and the City Planning Commission, so that there is an agency that is beholden to the people, and not the Mayor, that is pushing for long term urban planning decisions.

2) Passing a version of “Mandatory Inclusionary Housing 2.0”, that greatly changes the program, and gets us on a road to the full decommodification of housing in New York. This, however, is only a policy stop-gap from a much more ambitious, and preferable, public social housing program, which will require significant federal funding.

3) Defunding the NYPD in the budget, and abolishing the police by creating new alternatives to community safety, in the vein of the work that the Minneapolis City Council is attempting to do. Also connecting this to a year-long process of advocating for a “People’s Budget” in the community and with the Mayor during negotiations. Increased funding for Participatory Budgeting will also be an additional tool to make this a reality.

8. What committees would you want to join?

While these committees are highly competitive, I would make a case for a role in the leadership of the Finance committee, or the Subcommittee of Capital Budget and Finance. I would also like to be on Public Safety, Land Use, and Housing and Buildings. After that, I would prioritize Criminal Justice, Standards and Ethics, Rules, Education, and Sanitation. I also would very much want to be on the Budget Negotiating Team.

9. Who do you think you will support as Speaker of the City Council?

If we are selecting from the current Council Members who are not term limited, there are only a few who have my politics. Right now I would support Carlina Rivera for Speaker because I believe she has the strongest track record on issues I care about. I believe it would be important to coordinate with the potential Socialist Caucus on what committee positions we can get to push our agenda, as a result of our support for the Speaker. But the Speaker is incredibly important if we want to get more legislation on to the floor, and it should ideally not be someone with clear aspirations of being Mayor.

D. COVID-19 Policy and Demands

1. Will you sign onto and advocate for NYC-DSA's [The People's Bailout for New York: A Socialist Response to the COVID-19 Crisis?](#)

Yes.

2. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Making all COVID-19 testing and treatment free and accessible?

Yes.

- Permanently housing the homeless using all means available, including emergency rent assistance and seizing vacant property through eminent domain?

Yes. I think it may take time before we can effectively use this strategy but it's one we need.

- Canceling rent and debt payments for the duration of the crisis?

Yes. We are headed towards a housing crisis we have never seen.

- Reducing policing during the crisis by putting a moratorium on arrests and limiting police enforcement of social distancing rules?

Yes.

- Blocking ICE from hospitals and courthouses?

Yes.

3. How will you fight city budget cuts to social services that will be proposed in the wake of COVID-19?

We need to take control of the City budget process, and make it something we organize around almost year round. When I was helping convene Occupy City Hall, we projected the vote from City Council live, as if it was a sporting event. I believe we need to bring awareness to the management and financial priorities of city agencies, and have events in the community year round, so that when the Executive Budget comes around, City Council members are coming from a strong position of power because there is more public awareness on what programs people want in their communities. The State Financial Control Board has already become more present in the management of our City because the impending government layoffs is

pressure they are applying to the city. We must take the streets and apply as much pressure as possible to stop what will likely be more cuts to our social services.

We also need to create the environment where there are no other options than to tax the rich. We have to organize very hard on keeping the funding for Department of Education priorities, City employee headcount, and for programs like Fair Fares. This is also a great example of how we connect organizing at the state level over increasing taxes, and timing that in a way so that it optimizes organizing over the City Fiscal Year.

One part of this is lifting up concrete stories about how people rely on these services, so that it doesn't remain a "faceless" part of our society that we can cut. The SYEP cut to the budget brought to light the importance of the program for many people. While creating a narrative is not the only thing, it is an important step to organizing around this. The other is collaborating around a clear message of us needing to tax the rich, a message that already resonates for most New Yorkers. This is also a way that we can hold the Speaker of City Council accountable because of their closer working relationship with the Mayor.

E. Housing and Land Use

1. Do you believe housing is a human right and should be guaranteed to all?

Absolutely. I think for it to be guaranteed in New York, it can't be a commodity. There is no way for us to ensure that this is true with the power that landlords wield in our City.

2. What are your proposals for creating deeply and permanently affordable housing for all New Yorkers?

Frankly, the City Council doesn't have the right tools to really build permanently affordable housing, and is in a tough position to try and change this dynamic in the short term. Despite this fact, I think it is incredibly important to try.

First, City Council must scrap and redo Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. The program is far too generous to developers, still displaces people, and the developers never fully follow through on their commitments.

Ideally, there would be a large federal program to support social housing, so that NYC can build large quantities of housing throughout the City and keep it under city administration, allowing us to offer it for free when necessary. This would make the largest steps towards decommodifying it.

We need to prioritize this in the menu of policies we lobby our federal government to implement for the City. We need the whole NYC delegation on board with prioritizing this.

I think Council must also push for at least a 50/50 model, reminiscent of the Real Affordability For All campaign. This should also be paired with increased enforcement on landlords who own property for low income people. This wouldn't just be a hotline that only people in the know can use, but active regular site visits and audits, and more effort educating people of their rights. Also there should be an overhaul of property taxes. We should consider working with our colleagues in Albany to ensure that Division of Housing and Community Renewal's data is publicly available, not just through specific unit rent history requests.

3. What do you see as the causes of gentrification and displacement? How will you address them as a Council Member?

Gentrification and displacement is caused by the effort to increase the capital worth of housing. The City, urban planners, and developers all benefit when the value of property increases, which in turn leaves people who can't afford housing, undocumented, or have bad credit history to be displaced. The increase in value only seeks to benefit the owners of the property, and the city which can make more revenue on taxing it, hypothetically. The way to address this is to not only strengthen protections on keeping people in their homes, but also building large quantities of housing and making it available to those in need.

As Council Member, I will push to change the regulations used to create affordable housing, so that these programs that are being used currently are changed. Housing access has been a crisis for many years, and the model of developer incentives has not made it possible for people to live and stay in their homes in New York. These programs need to be eventually scrapped, and I would work for deep coordination with our state slate to push for more housing reform, and create social housing at a wide scale. While we have relied on nonprofit developers and privately built affordable housing, I believe the ideal future is one where the City is managing and building the housing. This is not a future we can create tomorrow, but it needs to be the north star in terms of policy.

4. Would you support an immediate moratorium on the sale or lease of all city-owned land to for-profit developers? Would you require that any housing built on public land be 100% permanently affordable to low- and extremely-low income New Yorkers? How would you determine the affordability levels of housing built on public land?

Yes. We own so little land, it is integral that we build 100% affordable housing on as much of it as possible. The problem is we don't have enough of it, and it is largely concentrated in specific parts of the city. I would determine the affordability by basing it on where the most demand is within the population, which is mostly people who make less than \$30,000 a year. I personally would first prioritize housing the homeless and focusing on expanding programs similar to *Housing First* from Pathways to Housing, which was also recently piloted in Scotland. Anyone between 100% and 125% of the poverty line shouldn't have to pay for housing, and it should be provided by the state. After that, housing should be heavily subsidised for those making lower income. We as a City can set the terms of the housing we build on public land, and should make it as accessible as possible.

5. What is your assessment of the commercial rent crisis in New York City? How would you address it? What are your positions on the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA—Int 0737-2018) and Commercial Rent Stabilization bill (Int 1796-2019) currently in committee in the City Council?

I think the commercial rent crisis is almost mirroring the housing crisis, and we need to take equally drastic steps. We need to evaluate the constitutionality of it, but the City should consider seizing chronically unused property and leasing it at 50% of the market rate for several years, as is done in Barcelona, before returning it to the original owners.

It is absurd that we don't have any restrictions on commercial rent increases in New York. While some say that retail vacancy rates are lower than what is perceived, I believe it contributes to the dynamic where only certain types of retail is available in communities and major strips, hurting small business owners. I support the SBJSA, but I don't see it as systemic reform as what's necessary in this crisis. I am aware there is a lot of real estate opposition to the bill, which is always usually a good sign, but I believe that the high stock of empty retail spaces necessitates this type of legislation at a minimum.

I also support the Commercial Rent Stabilization bill, and understand it has gone through a lot of edits over the past few years. I think coupling this legislation with something that would stop property owners from waiting to lease their space out of fear of commitment, will strengthen the intended changes.

6. What is your assessment of the City's current land use approval process (e.g., ULURP)? How would you advocate changing it?

While the ULURP process is highly flawed, I also understand that with most big development projects, by the time ULURP has begun, it's already too late, and the die has been cast. So we need to reform more than just ULURP.

The discretion of the local elected official is far too powerful. This leads to the dynamic where important private and nonprofit developers are building relationships with the elected official for years in order to ensure that they get a favorable vote on a project. ULURP attempts to bring in public input, but there is a chasm between the community and city officials. Because the legislators are privy to a whole set of different conversations, they move forward with the project more often than not, and then the community is forced to go to litigation, which they often lose as well.

ULURP needs to be made much more collaborative, and disagreements between the community and city officials need to be solved by mediation. Currently, the elected officials are reviewing plans and are making a decision based on a lobbying effort by certain advocates or developers. This becomes more of an up-down vote, and less a process between equals. Also the Community Board and Borough President can only offer non-binding recommendations, and officials can make binding changes.

Again, I believe this is a case for a radical charter revision commission. I believe on a city wide vote, DSA and activists can out organize and win on the ballot for changes to the ULURP program.

7. Do you support Mayor de Blasio's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH/ZQA) program? What do you think of the strategy of creating affordable housing by incentivizing private developers?

No, it's really problematic. It's only marginally better than 421-a. I know a lot of people on the left think a way forward is trying to get as many concessions from private developers to build more housing, and I too would support changes to the MIH program. But I feel in general, it doesn't lead to ending the housing crisis, and further exacerbated displacement and gentrification. I think we need completely new tools to solve this problem. I don't think it's far fetched that with a Democrat in the White House, we could work to get funding for building 100% affordable, publicly owned housing, and reinvest into NYCHA.

8. Do you support imposing affordability requirements on as-of-right development?

Yes.

9. What role do you think land zoned for manufacturing use should play in New York's economic ecosystem? Would you seek to increase or decrease land zoned for manufacturing? Why?

When the manufacturing jobs, and the more affordable homes that these workers lived in, moved out of the city, some of the local power of labor left with it. The past few Mayors have consciously turned this city into one that relies economically on Wall Street, Tech, Film and TV, and other high end services. It pinned this on an effort to gentrify outer borough communities to encourage population growth of upper income people and push out long term residents to keep the City "economically favorable". This is also why "broken windows" was seen as so important.

We should increase manufacturing in the city because I do not believe an economy focused so much on the service industry and tech jobs is viable, or will provide jobs for more people. The challenge is that three regions in Brooklyn that have significant areas that have been zoned for manufacturing are areas the Mayor is trying to rezone, and in Sunset Park and Gowanus, are in flood zones and will be impacted by climate change. Just saying that in the 39th that we should move manufacturing zoning to another part of the district isn't practical because there aren't areas in the district that can easily be rezoned for manufacturing. I want to first build a resiliency plan for Gowanus, then I believe we should revisit a plan to build more housing, but also protect as much manufacturing as possible in this part of the district.

10. How would you seek to end racist and economically discriminatory and undemocratic rezonings?

The rezonings have largely been in communities of color, and have been designed to "flip" those communities to make them more profitable. All rezonings should mandate a racial impact study. Also I believe that this dynamic will continue to occur, until we create a stronger counter weight to the DCP, either as a stand alone agency that better engages with the community in development and ULURP process, or an expanded Public Advocate that can launch similar work. But ULURP as is will make it impossible to make the change we want.

- What is/has been the most important land use fight in your district?
What position did you or would you advocate for?

The Gowanus rezoning, along with other zoning and development issues in Gowanus around the waterfront, are the biggest land use fights in the district.

There is a lot of debate about the timing of this project, but so far it seems that the project will get decided before 2022, so I wouldn't have a chance to vote it down. But there is some effort to delay the project because there wouldn't be adequate "public input" into the project. CM Brad Lander is a huge advocate for the project, and his office has been trying to support it for a long time. While there are activists fighting to stop the project, the developers are all working to get it through during CM Lander's term in office.

I do not support the project. I believe it is far too much luxury housing, doesn't have enough insurances of adequate resilience measures for this part of the district, and the community does not have the infrastructure to support this increase of population just yet. There are people who are against all housing projects, and anything that changes the neighborhood, and I feel there is a lot of underlying racism a part of that belief. I believe in creating 100% affordable housing, and large quantities of it, but I do not believe in this false dichotomy that either housing can't be built, or it must be done this way.

11. Do you support creating a comprehensive plan and/or community-based plans?

There are a lot of housing and land use issues that sit outside of the purview of just zoning. I believe a comprehensive or community based plan can begin to coordinate these overlapping concerns and facilitate a process where community members have a truly level opportunity to advocate for their needs in the future of their community. It also can be co-opted and used to push for an agenda advocated for by the Mayor and other players, so it is not a silver bullet, so activist and community groups need to offer plans and push for them when interfacing with the government. They need to be centered in the community, so that what's done is not just the parts of the plan that appeal to capital, but all of the plan.

12. How would you identify and obtain funds to rectify the chronic underfunding of maintenance and capital repairs in NYCHA buildings? Will you commit to ending the sale or leasing of NYCHA land and air rights? Do you support the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program? What would you do to increase tenants' democratic control?

I absolutely commit to ending the sale of NYCHA land, air rights, and the privatization of public housing through the RAD program. NYCHA needs at least \$40 billion in capital repairs. I think if we can prioritize capital projects over the course of a decade like renovating three regional airports,

we can prioritize renovating our NYCHA complexes. Finding the funding is the most challenging part, but I believe we must increase taxes on several fronts to do it, in coordination with state and federal political leaders who can allocate funding to make something like this possible. This will mostly be outside of the purview of City Council but still is very important to work towards.

Tenants need to have a seat at the table. So tenants need to have their own representatives taking part in decision making conversations within NYCHA. The current Resident Board members are a minority of the votes, and are still appointed by the Mayor.

13. Do you support the expansion of the Family Re-Entry Program to allow people coming home from incarceration the ability to live in public housing?

Yes. It's my understanding that it is common for people to find ways to live with family members in public housing, without documentation, in order to not trigger further oversight from NYCHA. I think for those folks returning home, family is incredibly important, so we need to be more accommodating for people to find their existing networks where possible and live where it makes most sense for them.

14. What reforms would you advocate in all agencies that touch on land use decision-making, such as the Department of City Planning (DCP), the City Planning Commission (CPC), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Buildings (DOB), the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) or any other relevant bodies, to remove the influence of the real estate industry from agency decision making?

It is very hard to substantively remove the influence of the real estate industry from agency decision making, because the Mayor will always appoint heads to agencies, and one appointment can impact years of planning decisions. As long as housing is a commodity in New York, we will have the real estate industry impacting agency decisions in some way.

I believe if we create a new agency that has direct accountability to the community, and alter the planning processes of ULURP, and any other community based plans in the future, we can begin to counteract this power dynamic. Even if there is less direct lobbying for the real estate industry, there are still many opportunities for indirect influence, particularly if we see private developers as the means to provide more housing for people. So we have to write them out of the equation by having planning decisions be made from negotiated processes between the people

and the officials. This can either happen through amendments to ULURP or through the creation of an agency focused on shepherding this process.

15. How will you protect public parks and green spaces from privatization by developers and conservancies?

We need to do what we can to make it illegal to do so. There also is a reluctance for the City to build more public space, and have opted to give developers quasi-public land, and claim it to be an asset given to the community. This is the case in Gowanus with new developments with very unwelcoming and poorly designed “public spaces” that are very hard to access along the waterfront. The “park” in front of the Whole Foods is a great example.

I will fight for each public park in the district, and encourage the city to allocate its funds more equitably towards the outer boroughs. I will also connect with members of the community around all of the smaller parks in the district in order to supplement what the Parks Department doesn’t spend enough time doing in terms of engaging people on their concerns about their nearest park.

16. Will you support the following as a City Council member: (For any you don’t support, please explain why)

- Increased funding to enforce recently passed rent regulation laws?

Yes.

- Vastly increasing funding and support for democratically controlled low-income housing, such as Community Land Trusts (CLTs)?

Yes. I love the idea of CLTs, I think they will take a lot of time and work to become more prevalent in the City but we should work to start this.

- Increased funding for enforcement of fair housing laws?

Yes.

- The aggressive use of city programs and eminent domain to take ownership of distressed properties and transfer them to community control?

Yes! We absolutely need to do this. It’s important that we get the “community” part of this right. We are seeing liens and title grabs used to dispossess property from mostly people of color, and we

need to make sure we are moving property to the people and not the other way around as is now.

- Removing all city funding from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and eliminating all of the EDC's power in relation to land use, planning, and economic development?

Yes.

- Lobbying for the repeal of 421-a and redirecting money to permanent, non-profit, cooperatively-owned, or public affordable housing programs?

Yes. I discuss more the idea of publicly owned affordable housing, but we should also consider non-profit and all other cooperatively-owned models.

17. Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist land use platform?

Yes.

F. Expanding and Deepening Our Democracy

1. How would you seek to increase democratic involvement and representation within your district?

I plan to have monthly neighborhood assemblies in different parts of the district, purposely designed to focus on important issues in the community, but also centered around building civic knowledge and political power for those most marginalized in those communities. So a big part of it will be targeted outreach to people and community groups that have connections with those most in need, and making sure that they turn out in larger numbers.

I also will seek the input of community members in important legislative conversations, and do so in as accessible a way as possible. So I will use technology, as well as the old fashioned way of going to people where they live when it is more safe to do so, to communicate about the important legislative topics of the time, and the business of the committees that I'm sitting on. I will continually seek input on this work throughout the year. This will be more than just a social media program, but be as interactive as possible. I will also encourage communities to join existing groups as much as possible, so that the spaces where people organize and mobilize are supported as well.

2. How do you view the role of the Council, particularly in comparison to the Mayor, Comptroller, and Public Advocate?

People see the Council as a place for constituent services. While that is very important, the City Council is there to legislate. There is a lot of soft power that Council uses, and this can arise in more than a few community based issues, and it's important to work with others to find answers to community problems that don't necessarily need legislation to fix. But Council's role within the legislative arm of New York City is chiefly focused on their power as a legislator. I also see it as the Council's responsibility to help push for legislation at the State and Federal level, when it is outside of the purview of Council.

All that said, it is most critical that our Council Members are advocating for equitable zoning, and an expansive budget process that focuses on the needs of the community. Council also has an important role of developing a hearing schedule, that helps bring awareness to issues and can be leveraged into making change either through legislation or other means.

3. What are your thoughts on community boards and their role in city governance? Do you want to change how the boards are selected and/or operate? If so, how? What interests or communities would you try to represent with your appointments?

Community Boards need to be greatly reformed. They should be directly elected. The appointment process through the existing elected officials helps shape the general pro real estate mindset that pervades some Community Boards. So ideally, I wouldn't be doing the appointments while in office. If that isn't the case, then I would make sure that my appointments would be individuals who are people of color, organizers or activists that are not from the political arena, and people who represent subsets of the district that are under represented identity wise and economically. I will try and inject as much movement energy into the Community Board as possible.

4. What are your thoughts on nonpartisan city elections?

I wrote a paper on this in grad school. I support nonpartisan city elections. The county party machines are still a force of power, and are capable of curtailing substantive change, and we have seen them engage in very antidemocratic processes during a pandemic to try and consolidate power. I think we need to find ways to diminish the impact that the County parties have on politics, and making elections nonpartisan can help.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Increasing the public matching funds ratio for New York City elections?

Yes, but I also support the creation of a Democracy Dollars voucher program in NYC, as an alternative to the current public matching system, similar to what exists in Seattle.

- Requiring all Council Members to participate in Participatory Budgeting and expanding funding for the program?

Yes. I heard that they are not funding the PB program increases that were a part of the last charter revision commission recommendation that was voted on. We need to get this funding back, and expand it.

It's very important to note that Participatory Budgeting in many ways recreates inequality. The funding needs to be for organizing staff. I had the opportunity to be a volunteer facilitator for the program in district 33 the first time the Councilmember did the program. It was a ton of work to get it together. It was very hard to get marginalized communities into the door, and engaging with the program. What happened is the demographic of people who have the political capital and time to navigate government to get resources were the most present. It feels democratic, but it can also entrench the funding priorities of people who already have power and access. So we need to demystify the budget process, and do so in a way that tries to prevent people from being disengaged when the challenges of democracy and budgeting come to light.

- Offering all City residents the right to vote in City elections, regardless of immigration status or prior felony conviction?

Yes. Some immigrant led grassroots organizations are afraid of a Republican federal government using “non citizen voting” as a way to aggressively deport people. I believe we should still try and find a way to get this done, but I will happily take feedback and speak with members of the immigrant community on this matter.

G. Labor

1. What is your relationship to unions and the labor movement in New York City?

I am no stranger to the labor movement. Both my parents were teachers union members, and a scholarship from their union helped me go to college. I myself was elected co-chair of the staff union at my job, Center for Popular Democracy, and which is a part of the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild/TNG-CWA Local 32035. From this experience, it is

abundantly clear how management and bosses will always and in any environment seek to extract the most from the workers at the expense of their humanity and safety. I've worked in toxic environments, and the labor organizing I've done in the past 2 years has only radicalized me further that we need to strengthen the labor movement, and engage in rank-and-file efforts to change the direction of larger national unions.

I have spent time talking and connecting to members of CWA in New York, and have been to a few meetings of the DSA Labor Branch.

2. What would you do to support the rights of workers to form unions, and to expand unionization in New York City?

There are a lot of reasons why union membership and power is declining in New York City. There is nothing stopping City Council from working to provide more information and resources for workers so that they understand their rights, and can engage in collective bargaining. As a Council member, I will also encourage the development of “organic leaders”, within workers in my district, and provide training and resources on how to better organize in their places of employment, even if they don’t have union representation. I will also work to make sure that we continue to fund pro-worker programs in the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection.

At the federal level, if the Protect the Right to Organize Act gets passed, it will give workers in the City more tools to expand and protect unionization. In Council, the strongest way to have an immediate impact on union workers is to help amplify their members' needs as they go to negotiate their contracts with the Mayor and private employers. Council can be supportive to the needs of rank and file workers when this process happens when their contracts are renegotiated.

3. What minimum salary do you promise to pay your staffers? How does this reflect your ideas of what a living wage should be, and who should have access to the political system?

Under no circumstance will I have someone working for me with a salary lower than \$50,000 a year. Ideally all jobs should at a minimum provide a living wage equal to that for someone who is a single parent in the City, which is ~\$65,000. Council staff are chronically underpaid, and overworked, which is why their unionization drive is so important. I want to explore ways to keep the salary between staff members as equitable as possible, so there aren't singular staff members with significantly higher salaries than others in the same office. This will however impact the size of the office, so this is a conversation I want to have going into transition.

4. How should New York respond to the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* case?

We have to reverse the trend of people not pursuing union membership. We need to push for everyday people to organize and join their unions, as if it was an awareness campaign around altering public behavior like a public health emergency.

5. How can we ensure fair conditions for people working in New York City's gig economy?

There are more than 140,000 gig workers in New York City, and they need protections because they are even more vulnerable than other workers. One step would be to expand paid sick leave to gig workers in the legislation that was passed previously in City Council. Gig workers also notoriously struggle to get unemployment and other benefits from the state. We need to simplify the claims process so that they can get these resources.

Gig workers need to be classified as employees, and not as independent contractors, and we can use the "ABC test" as a standard for determining who is an employee and who is a contractor. This will lead to fair protections that can be applied to gig workers.

6. Will you unconditionally support any striking workers in New York, even if their actions violate legal restrictions?

Yes.

7. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Raising the local NYC wage beyond \$15? What do you think the minimum wage should be?

Yes. \$32.91.

- City legislation on work schedule stability?

Yes.

- City legislation to require paid vacation for all workers?

Yes.

- Banning unpaid internships (including in your City Council office)?

Yes. I've been on the other side of unpaid internships. So many nonprofits and activist spaces mistreat their interns.

- The right of City Council staff to unionize?

Absolutely. I supported their effort to organize and will continue to do so. As a former Council staffer, this is important to me.

- Card check neutrality?

Yes, this is best for members and unions.

H. Decarceration

1. What is your view on the role of police in New York City public schools?

They should not have a role in schools! The notion that we need school safety officers is flawed and is one of the biggest contributors to the school-to-prison pipeline. We can have community safety measures that also apply to schools, but the police are arbiters of incarceration, they don't keep people safe, and they certainly don't in schools. Cops out, counselors in.

2. What steps would you support taking to end the "school-to-prison pipeline"?

First, by removing school safety officers for our public schools. Next by increasing funding for counselors, social workers, and supporting restorative practices in schools, we can improve climate and culture and reverse the way discipline often falls on lines of race. Severe zero tolerance disciplinary school practices, often for minor infractions fuel this problem as well. Exclusionary practices, like student suspensions, classroom removals, expulsions, and referrals to law enforcement agencies, should not happen. Not fully funding schools in New York has greatly contributed to the reductions in behavioral health and support staff. We need these jobs back, and we need to give students the support they would get in more wealthy environments.

Also improving teacher-student ratios and moving away from such a focus on standardized testing will roll back a culture that lends itself to a carceral perspective. Also the charter school movement has exacerbated this problem, some of these schools are already run like prisons. We must work to stop the spread of charters in the City and better support district schools.

3. Do you support reducing the NYPD budget? If so, by how much? If not, why?

This is one of my policy priorities. I would cut the budget by \$3 billion.

A common refrain this summer in the Defund the Police organizing spaces was “At least \$1 billion”. I believe we learned quickly that both the community support was more than we expected, but also that the legislators in City Council were more conservative and pro incarceration than we hoped. I think there was a feeling that for a strategic reason, it made sense to start with \$1 billion. It honestly was an incredibly low bar that could have been accomplished by just actually cutting overtime and cutting very excessive capital projects. It didn’t even touch the fact that we need to eventually zero out the NYPD budget and create a new system of community safety.

And yet our City Council let us down again. We need to abolish the police and create an alternative system where we move away from incarceration, and invest in community resources and alternatives to policing. Other legislators in other cities are trying to make this a reality, we need to in New York.

4. Would you support a hiring freeze and reductions in the NYPD force?

Yes. Immediately. The upcoming classes should have never have been continued.

5. Do you see an armed police force as a primary or a necessary institution to foster public safety? If not, what concrete policies or programs would you like to see as an alternative? How would you hope to begin moving towards them?

I don't. I think we can create alternatives for most instances of things that we send a police force to handle. They don't need to be doing enforcement. Many instances that police are called for are better equipped for social workers and other professionals. We can train people in the community to de-escalate conflict. None of these people need to be police officers.

The next thing everyone brings up is what to do about violent crime. I think that is the more challenging part of moving away from police as a part of public safety. But I think if we fund and support our communities, and people are housed, employed, educated, and not treated like criminals and can find support for things like mental health challenges, and addiction, we will have much less violent crime.

Again, this I believe goes back to a budget priorities conversation, so we can move closer to this future if we item out the programs we need to fund

and push for them. Abolishing the police will take time, but I think it can be done.

6. Do you support shifting most or all of the police budget to other purposes or agencies?
 - Would you support shifting noise complaints, mental health crises, and most other conflict handling currently in NYPD's purview to trained social workers without weapons?

Absolutely.

- Do you support returning traffic enforcement to the Department of Transit?

Yes, this was a more recent move, and I believe there has been an increase in more heavy handed carceral tactics in traffic enforcement as a result.

- In general, will you commit to reforms that decrease the funding and size of the NYPD, rather than reforms that increase its size and funding (even in the form of trainings, body cameras, etc.?)

Yes. I will admit that I was naive in thinking that body cameras would change things, when I was in the streets towards the beginning of Black Lives Matter. I am now completely in the camp of abolition. You can't "bias-train" away the military industrial complex. As a victim of police violence that happened at Abolition Park, the idea that we can reform their behavior, when the police commissioner openly talks about not requiring their officers to follow new guidelines is laughable.

- Do you support a "duty to intervene" law, to require police to intervene if they see another officer harming or risking a member of the public, with a failure to intervene a fireable offense?

I see this as a good idea, but like the Right to Know Act, I don't see it being followed as closely as it should.

- Would you support mandating that all NYPD misconduct settlements are paid for out of the agency's existing or following year's budget or through offending officers' pensions, rather than paid by the ?

Yes, I love this idea.

- Do you support attrition of NYPD through aggressive investigation and firings of officers found to have participated in unprovoked brutality in the ongoing protests?

Yes. I am very disappointed that the Attorney General has essentially confirmed that they will not pursue cases of police brutality this summer. If there were any systems to accountability in our government, this would be a starting point, not an unachievable ceiling.

- Would you support making covering name and badge number during any civilian interaction a fireable offense?

Yes, it's ridiculous that this is still a thing.

7. Do you consider yourself a prison abolitionist? If so, how will that affect how you legislate in the Council?

Yes. If I'm chair of the Public Safety or Criminal Justice committee, I will frame all of our legislative work towards that goal. I anticipate it will be very challenging but I think it will require pushing back on reform legislation that will keep getting proposed so that legislators can cover their back.

I think that framing this as a budget priorities conversation will make it easier to speak on abolition.

8. Should NYC build borough-based jails to compensate for the closure of Rikers? If not, what should be done?

I support No New Jails, and I believe we should close Rikers, and move away from incarceration, not keep the same perspective for public safety and fill up new jails. I respect that there are people on the other side of this debate, but I think that this was a bad move and we will be living with the ramifications for a long time. This does not mean that the poor conditions caused by the Department of Corrections is not something we shouldn't care about. But as we've seen that they are delaying closing Rikers but continuing with the construction of the new jails, shows that we can't trust this system. Jails do not keep people safe.

Changes to the cash bail system should start to make an impact on our ability to bring down the occupancy rate of our jails. But lower levels of policing increase public safety, and will decrease the amount of people in prison. A vast majority of police stops don't lead to arrest, and the ones that do, very few lead to felonies, and more than half lead to the charges being dropped. Our jails are filled with people who shouldn't be there, and

who all will be much worse off for it. I think we are in a stronger position to migrate to a post-incarceration focused community safety system in the City than many people think we are.

9. What role should police play in regard to the homeless?

None. We should be housing people, and giving them the services they need if they request them. Until we make housing a human right, professionals who are better equipped with working with houseless individuals should be working with them to help them find outcomes that they want for themselves.

10. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Not building any new jails, prisons, or detention centers in New York City?

Yes.

- Significantly reducing the number of people in NYC jails and prisons (beyond the criminal justice reforms already passed)?

Yes.

- Creating a city bail voucher program to ensure that no one is held in a city jail for lack of funds (the proposal is outlined on pg. 14 of [No New Jails policy packet](#))?

Yes.

- Ending or dramatically curtailing the practice of cash bail entirely?

Yes, I support ending it.

- A ban on the use of facial recognition software by law enforcement agencies?

Yes! Other cities have been able to do this, and we should too.

- A ban on partnerships and data sharing with private surveillance companies and tools, such as Amazon Ring?

Yes.

- A ban on the use of predictive policing algorithms?

Yes; it is frightening that this is a thing.

- An elected and empowered Civilian Complaint Review Board?

This is the one thing where I feel I disagree with members of the AfroSoc caucus. I don't know if I believe the CCRB is reformable. More importantly, I feel if we have an electoral process for members of the CCRB, it will lead to the PBA and other police unions throwing tons of money into elections to get favorable CCRB members. So I'm less certain I support this reform, but I'm open to hearing other arguments about it. Of course, if the center of gravity of DSA and the movement was behind this, I'd get behind it.

1. Can we achieve police accountability through the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If so, how? If not, how can we hold police accountable?

I'm pessimistic that we can achieve police accountability through the CCRB. The process takes far too long to find justice for someone if they are going through the system, and most victims don't have the time or capacity to see it through. Even so, once a recommendation is made, the Police Commissioner is not bound by CCRB recommendations. Also even after a successful CCRB process, internal police department procedures tend to guarantee that even cases sustained by the CCRB do not lead to adequate discipline.

I think we can't have police accountability within the NYPD. I think we need to minimize policing to get to an alternative. Now in the meantime, I think we could create an agency that is much more binding, and leading to immediate discipline and firing. But this will need a complete envisioning of the relationship and power of the CCRB and I think that time and energy might be better placed towards abolition work.

- Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a platform for decarceration and community safety and work to implement those goals while in office?

Yes.

I. Socialist Feminism

1. Are you a feminist?

Yes. I try to think about it like how people are moving away from saying they are not racist, and instead they are saying they are actively “anti-racist”. I want others to see my actions and beliefs and say that I am a feminist, but I know that this requires constant reflection and sustained work, particularly as a cis male who grew up benefitting from patriarchy.

2. What does feminism mean to you?

To me, it means advocating through all facets of life for a system of full equality of sexes. It means acknowledging patriarchy, and dismantling it in all systems within our culture and institutions. I also believe that the oppression of women is tied to the class system and private property. Gender inequality is an important facet of capitalism.

3. What would you do to address high rates of violence against transgender women, particularly trans women of color?

Violence towards the trans community is at an epidemic level, and will require a lot of resources to erase. Part of this work is providing opportunities for trans women and trans women of color. Another is education and awareness work that needs to be done in the community and in schools to combat hate and prejudice. In the meantime, work can be done providing mutual support for trans women with programs focused on building more safe spaces in communities of color, evening escorts in the community, and specialized support toward navigating city services.

A large part of this work would involve improving the life outcomes of trans women of color. There is a higher need for housing security, protection from discrimination and denial of healthcare, protection from unemployment, and from protection from being denied opportunities in school. When people have homes, resources, and employment opportunities, it will improve and decrease the instances of violence that trans women face. Also legislation like the Walking While Trans Ban are important to making immediate steps to changing how the NYPD targets this community.

4. What would you do in office to address the problem of sexual harassment and assault against women in precarious situations, whether in housing, immigration, or low-wage work, that imperils their livelihood, homes, or presence in this country?

Sexual harassment is baked deep into our culture, and it needs to be aggressively removed. I believe a collection of programs and initiatives can stop sexual harassment. These programs should include trainings for bystanders to intervene, focusing on all levels of schooling to discuss issues

of toxic masculinity, sex education focusing more on consent and violence, better street infrastructure that makes it more safe for women like better lighting, community mediation processes for victims of violence and harassment, free mental health services for survivors, and other resources to better educate and help make victims feel whole and repair the breech of trust. I think men play an important part in participation in these programs. We need to create more accountability and more spaces for healing.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Funding free preschool, childcare and maternity/paternity leave?

Yes.

- Ending "religious exemptions" to bans on discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity?

Yes.

- Decriminalizing sex work

Yes.

J. Healthcare Justice

1. What are your thoughts on [NYC Care](#), or a similar citywide program, that would expand healthcare coverage to the uninsured? How would you guarantee poor and working-class people have access to comprehensive health care services that are free at the point of care, such as reproductive care, mental health, dental, vision, and primary care?

I think NYC Care could be a good stopgap program before we reach Medicare for All. I know that NYC Care is very important to the immigrant community, even though there are still high levels of fear to interface at all with the government. It's hard for the City to create a program that could achieve what Medicare for All can as a federal program. NYC Care isn't insurance, so it relies on our hospitals being well funded to provide good care for people who qualify for it. I think that the state should create a health insurance program that includes undocumented people and that the State should expand its Essential Plan to do that.

2. How would you guarantee poor and working class people have access to reproductive care?

By funding programs like NYC Care to provide this service, and ideally have everyone insured. Reproductive care needs to be widely accessible, and the City and State needs to offer it for everyone who is working class and is not already offered it. We technically offer some of these resources, but they are not widely used because people don't know about it, and the process to get these resources is limited because the hospitals are funded at the levels that they need to be. So we need to inject a lot more funds to hospitals to expand their availability, and do more consultations at satellite locations where more people will have access. We have to stop the closures of community health centers and expand the model. We can also work to provide more reproductive care as a part of our school system.

3. Would you support building safe injection sites? If so, where? How would you expand harm reduction programming in NYC?

Yes, we should have them across the City where people live. When a safe injection site was being discussed to be at VOCAL's office, which is a block from where I live, some of my neighbors protested. I tried working with the VOCAL staff and tried to defend the office because I believe it works. I would expand harm reduction programming by directing discretionary funding to community groups to use empty office space to house programs like syringe exchanges and providing Naloxone. Also it's important for people to have access to safe bathrooms and indoor spaces. I think more care coordination professionals at the City level can also support what community groups are already doing.

4. Will you oppose the expansion of policing and incarceration into NYC hospitals, including the currently proposed jail beds?

Yes.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why):
 - o Health care as a human right for all people

Yes.

- o Fully-funding public hospitals/community health centers and preventing the closing of any public health care institutions?

Yes.

- o New Yorkers' rights to reproductive health care, including abortion without restriction and on demand?

Yes.

K. Education

1. Would you support New York City and State fulfilling the promise of the Campaign For Fiscal Equity by increasing funding to public schools by \$4 billion, most of which is owed to districts with high percentages of Black, Brown and low-income students?

Yes. The state has a legal obligation to give us this funding. I feel our state legislators need to help deliver this funding for our City. It's been far too long and it's integral for trying to improve life outcomes for Black and Brown students.

2. What is your stance on uneven PTA fundraising across schools? How would you address this problem?

The lack of equity in funding for schools, either within the PTA or the school in general, is a core problem and is how we fail our students. We should do something similar to what was done in Seattle and Portland where some more funded schools share a portion of their PTA funds with nearby schools that have less money. In general, PTA's that are more affluent should be subsidising the schools that have less.

3. Do you support Mayoral control of City schools? If so, why? If not, what alternative do you propose?

I believe we need to create more democratic systems wherever we can. There are many problems with how the Mayor is conducting education in the city, but I believe going back to school boards poses a lot of problems as well. Both systems have challenges, but I think we should evaluate how we can have a less centralized system. One thing I've seen is that parents need more control of the CECs. The problem is that the City Council, and most parents, don't feel they have any checks or balances on the Mayor. So we need to start to create an alternative. Problems within our education system persisted before Mayoral control, but segregation and inequality within our schools have increased, in many ways because of how Mayor's have managed this system. I just understand the significant challenges facing a change of this size. We should consider municipal control and a truly independent Panel on Education Policy.

4. What is your position on the City's high school admissions procedures?

The screened admission process, along with school choice, is what enshrine segregation in schools. It privileges children whose families have the resources and time to navigate this system and pay for test preparation. It discriminates against qualified but low-income Black and Hispanic students. Brad Lander pushed to end selective admission in middle schools in the district, and this is something that we should expand to high schools.

5. How will you fight to desegregate the City's school system?

The biggest battles for desegregation are the admission procedures, and adequate funding for the schools in general. Also school choice is very much a contributor to segregation. I will fight for desegregation by advocating for rezonings, like the one going on in CEC 15, that will be a step towards equity. Considering student class rank in middle school also is a more equitable way to assess performance, this will make high schools more diverse over time. Even so, it is more important that we should move away from any form of screenings. Also high schools can create other ways to create barriers, including requirements like "demonstrated interest" or even attendance, which is another marker that privileged parents who can leverage resources to get their children into a particular school will always have an advantage. The City could also create a singular application for all schools, and move towards lotteries. Also the DOE should try to create centers around the city where parents can work with counselors to review their options and complete their application, similar to a program that was created in New Orleans.

6. Do you support integrating NYC public schools based on race and socioeconomic status?

Yes, absolutely.

- Toward this end, do you support the elimination of academic screening, which entrenches educational stratification in NYC by sorting students largely according to their education privileges?

Yes. (see answers to 4 and 5)

7. Should "School Resource Officers" (i.e. cops in schools) exist?

No. But we need to create a just transition so that workers in these positions can move on to other well paying jobs. That shouldn't however delay the need to end School Resource Officers.

8. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Making CUNY tuition free?

Yes.

- Funding CUNY to meet adjunct's demand of \$7,000 per course (they are currently paid poverty wages)?

Yes.

- A ban on local funding (including tax advantages on income and property) for universities that allow admissions based on "legacy" and similar criteria?

Yes.

- Limits on the expansion of charter schools in the City?

Yes, absolutely.

- Proper access to secular education for Yeshiva students?

Yes.

- Expanding the City's 3K program to all parts of the City?

Yes. We will be seeing the positive impacts of this program years from now. Unfortunately the pandemic is likely erasing a lot of the gains that started, but outcomes for people of color will increase the more we support this program.

- A citywide prohibition on exclusionary school discipline (i.e. suspensions and expulsions)?

Yes this is critical for ending the school-to-prison pipeline.

- Removing screenings for schools and ensuring minimum academic diversity thresholds?

Yes.

- Enacting a comprehensive redistricting of public schools to ensure racial integration?

Yes, I think this is critical, and we have a roadmap with work already done in this district.

- Fighting for the funding owed to NYC public schools by New York State?

Yes!

- Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist education platform?

Yes.

L. Economic Justice

1. Due to lack of affordable options many households in New York City do not have internet access. What should the City be doing to guarantee that all residents have low-cost, high-speed internet access, without increasing the market dominance and consolidation of a handful of internet service providers?

Broadband and internet access in NYC costs far too much and is low quality for a major city. The City should create its own publicly owned broadband network, and it should break up the provider monopoly that exists for so many communities. We should also offer broadband for free for NYCHA and low income communities.

2. Would you support increased transparency for all economic development deals entered into by the City, including:
 - Banning non-disclosure agreements in economic development negotiations?

Yes.

- Implementing a “database of deals” to track the economic development budget, and company-specific reporting on relevant data re. jobs created and other promised returns on public investment?

Yes, but we would need to ensure that this information was readily available and easy to access.

- Better delimitation of the geographic areas eligible for incentives?

Yes.

3. Do you support the following: (For any you don’t support, please explain why)
 - Progressively raising the City’s income tax for higher tax brackets?

Definitely. Hopefully our state leaders can deliver this.

- Common ownership of natural resources of New York State and any technologies or innovations developed with public funding as well as expansion of employee stock ownership plans, co-determination, community ownership, municipalization, and nationalization?

Yes.

- New York City home rule to establish new taxes for local revenue generation?

Yes!

- A cap on total subsidies and tax breaks corporations can receive from the City?

Yes.

4. How can City Council help close the racial wealth gap in New York City? How can City Council help create more and better jobs for people of color?

There is this belief that people of color in New York will be able to all own homes and pass wealth over to future generations just as easily as white New Yorkers, as if the effects of redlining can just be waived away. I think this is also prevalent in central Brooklyn between the elected officials of color. I don't think this is possible under racial capitalism. To close the racial wealth gap, you have to make it possible for people to save money by not spending it on essentials like housing and taking on tons of debt for education.

City Council can create more and better jobs for people of color with the expansion of programs like universal pre-K, and targeted training and opportunities for workers to migrate towards new industries like resiliency and a Green New Deal. We need to hire people for the programs that serve our community, and those programs will increase employment. By also allocating funds for workforce development and adult education, different communities can have better skills for opportunities throughout their life. Funding for these programs I will prioritize in parts of the community where communities of color struggle for stable employment.

5. Do you support efforts to found a public bank for the city that would prioritize neighborhood-led development and investments that benefit poor and working class New Yorkers?

Yes, this is a very good idea.

6. Do you support postal banking -- the provision of low-cost, consumer-driven financial services via the Postal Service?

Yes, this can be a decent option, but I prefer the idea of a public bank for the city.

M. Immigrant Justice

1. What existing connections do you have with immigrant-led groups?

Because of my current employment, I have worked closely with Make the Road, and New York Immigration Coalition. I tend to look towards individuals I know who work within these groups for guidance on immigration issues and policy.

- Are there specific immigrant communities in your district whose needs you plan to address in office? What are key issues for these communities?

The largest immigrant community in the district is concentrated in Kensington where a South Asian community is very strong and has been present for many years. Not only does this community face challenges that other communities of color face, in the vein of housing, transportation, affordability, and community support, but many people live in fear of ICE and deportations. This is why Brad Lander has gone out of his way to direct resources and has open office hours in Kensington as well as Park Slope. I intend to continue this work and work particularly hard to have a regular presence in this community. This will require developing and maintaining long standing relationships with important organizations and groups like PAYS and DRUM to try and collaborate on projects and ideas.

There is also a portion of Borough Park in the district that has a large Orthodox and Haredi population. While many in this community are not recent immigrants, they face similar challenges and lack access to public resources.

- How do you plan to use your office to provide constituent services to immigrants in your district?

I intend to hire someone who can organize specifically in that community, who has deep ties. This will anchor a lot of the needed constituent services needed to support this community. I will work to prioritize needs in this part of the community as often as possible,

and build the constituent services program out from there to other parts of the district.

2. What is your plan for language access on your campaign?

I will ensure that our communication reflects the diversity of my community. The two largest spoken languages after English is Spanish and Yiddish. There is also a collection of South Asian languages that are spoken in the southern part of the district. I will print materials, and eventually update the website and other forms of communication in multiple languages to match the needs of the community.

Language access in general needs to be expanded at agencies throughout the city. While Local Law 30 in 2017 did improve access, we still lag in implementation, including services like 311, where there aren't enough interpreters, and often people are given the wrong person over the line. 311 is flawed as it is, and I can't imagine what it might be like for the many New Yorkers who do not speak English. Language access through 311 is one area I would focus on. We need to hire more front line service employers in all city agencies that directly interact with communities to meet language access needs. We need to put funding towards this work in a real substantial way. I also intend to make significant steps towards having staff and volunteers who are multilingual and can do constituent services in a substantive way.

Also in general, during this pandemic, we should prioritize teaching English Language Learners when we open schools when it is safe. I cannot imagine a system where we can safely educate so many students during a pandemic, but this is a population we must focus on supporting once we create a way to begin educating New Yorkers again.

3. What steps do you think are necessary to establish stronger Sanctuary City protections in New York City?

The problem is that the Mayor plays off in speeches that we are Sanctuary City, and then coordinates with ICE and then acts as if he has no control altering the NYPD's behavior. The first part is actually having a City that commits to the existing protections. A federal judge already ruled that ICE arrests at court are illegal. The Protect Our Courts Act in Albany needs to go to the Governor and get signed, and we need the City to apply pressure to make sure that happens.

Also the work that activists have stepped in to do, like the Sunset Park ICE watch, are examples of community work that the government could support, either by providing resources, or helping community groups do

that work with grants and funds to continue their programs. I would need to double check the legality of it, but I'm confident it's possible. At a high level, the government has to be committed to the principals of a Sanctuary City, which it isn't, and we have to better equip the people on the ground doing the work to protect their community.

4. What steps do you think are necessary to end Broken Windows and Community policing, which disproportionately targets black and brown working-class people, including many undocumented immigrants, and puts immigrants at immediate risk by virtue of fingerprinting, the data for which is automatically shared with DHS?

Abolishing the police and setting up alternatives to policing and incarceration is the biggest and most important step we can take to ending Broken Windows and “Community Policing”. While we can make directives to the NYPD to change behavior, we have seen that they are uncontrollable. We have to protect ourselves, and we need to immediately begin to create the alternative vision of community safety.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Legislation prohibiting the use of City resources, personnel or funds to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law, such as traffic enforcement for ICE vehicles?

Yes.

- Legislation extending voting rights in municipal elections to immigrant New Yorkers?

Yes. I would also want to work closely with immigrant led organizations about how to do so in a way that members of this community would feel safe participating.

- Legislation strengthening the enforcement of worker misclassification laws, particularly around contractors, along with funding for a low-wage immigrant worker defense fund?

Yes.

- Increased, and permanent funding in the New York City budget for public defense, in both immigration and criminal proceedings?

Yes, this should have been done a long time ago.

- Increased city funding for social services accessible to all residents, regardless of citizenship status, to counteract the impacts of Trump's "public charge rule" and immigrants' exclusion from COVID-19 federal aid?

Yes. Public charge is so incredibly immoral a policy.

- Increased funding and resources for city agencies, hospitals and communities to develop policies and training for staff on know-your-rights information, both for the immigrant populations they serve and for themselves to exercise their rights to prevent ICE access & arrests?

Yes, I think this is a very important area for increasing funding and support. We should lean into this as much as we can.

N. Environmental Justice and Transportation

1. Do you endorse [DSA's Ecosocialist Green New Deal Guiding Principles](#)?

Yes.

2. Would you commit to developing an ecosocialist platform for your campaign in close consultation with NYC-DSA's Ecosocialist Working Group and its allies?

Yes, definitely.

3. Will you advance the goal of a publicly owned, democratically controlled energy system for New York in office?

Yes, I think there is a lot of support for this in the district, and throughout. I think it requires our legislators being bold about trying to get it done. Especially after the last round of power outages from extreme climate change related weather we have been having.

4. Will you support unionization for all new green jobs and a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers, protecting them by providing them with job transition programs, retraining and income security?

Yes. We need these jobs, and we need them to be union jobs.

5. Do you support new development in zone 1 and 2 emergency evacuation zone floodplains? Explain why or why not?

Not really. I think we need to really be moving towards a 100 year long term development plan that takes in considering worst case consideration with climate change. This zone 1 and 2 land, partially in this district, is highly sought by real estate developers looking for short term gain. Also a lot of the city is in these zones to begin with, so it will be challenging to build the housing we need considering that. If we care about everyone in this City, we need to build a future for everyone, and it can't be in land we anticipate to be under water potentially in our lifetime. Unless we have a very strong resilience program in effect, construction in these areas is too much of a risk.

Almost the whole Gowanus rezoning is in zone 1 and 2, which is challenging because even if we stop the rezoning, and envision a future of building more affordable housing in Gowanus, the City will again try to rezone some part of this area. There aren't a lot of areas in the district that can support big increases in housing and rezoning, so Gowanus will be in the crosshairs for a very long time. I think we might be able to build 100% affordable housing on the edges of the area, not in the higher risk emergency evacuation zone. Unfortunately as a Council Member, I might not be able to completely stop the project, so it would be my responsibility to use all my power to make sure it is as equitable a project and protect the tenants of Gowanus.

6. What is your stance on powering NYC with Canadian hydropower?

I admit, I was a little surprised when I first heard of this project. My first immediate question was why there wasn't enough renewable energy being created in New York State to power the City in the future? While I very much support the effort to cut carbon emissions, I think we should see if there are more options to do so using other forms of energy in New York. I need more time learning the details of the project, and would love working with DSA Ecosocialists on that.

7. What is your stance on City control of the subways?

While this is ambitious, I think we absolutely need to take City control of our subway and busses. The rest of the state vs. the City dynamic of our politics will always leave us with an underfunded public transit system.

8. Do you support fully funding the MTA capital plan and reducing or eliminating fares? What role do you believe the City Council can have in achieving this?

When I was at City Council Finance, I worked briefly on budget projections for the Fair Fares pilot program. I very much believe we need to fully fund the MTA, and move towards eliminating fares. I was frustrated that this

program was cut as a part of filling the budget gap. We need to go back to the drawing board, group up, and engage in a full court press in the next budget and demand that we fund these programs. If that means starting another pilot program for Fair Fares, then of course we do that but some of these ideas originated in the City Council, and we need to take ownership and advance them as much as possible.

9. What are your primary modes of transportation? How will you commute to work at the council?

I'm a big fan of the subway. I'm now a more cautious fan because of the pandemic, but I intend to mainly use the subway and buses. I haven't driven in more than 10 years and hope to keep it that way. I used to ride a bike, but grew a bit nervous riding in the City after seeing a few friends get hurt. I'd like to build up my confidence and begin bike riding a lot more. There has been multiple cases of vehicular murder of bike riders a few blocks from me on Flatbush Avenue. To my knowledge, none of those drivers were prosecuted.

10. How do you plan to achieve the City's goals of zero waste by 2030 when the city has slashed funding for organics collection?

This is another project that was very close to my heart. I worked for three years in the Office of Management and Budget in the Sanitation Unit. I can talk a lot about the organics program, but essentially the City didn't invest the resources to make the program successful, and essentially threw up its hands and abandoned it when the going got tough. We will save money if we actually invest in doing it correctly, and have some form of enforcement. They specifically put QR codes on the brown bins so that if there were buildings that were not using the program, the City could send workers to give information and resources to families and building operators to help them participate in the program. But they never did that side of the program. We are just throwing away a potential resource.

We can get to zero waste if we keep moving towards a stronger organics program, make capital investments to make it easier to recycle and compost in large buildings and schools, and move away from private carters.

11. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Decarbonizing the power grid?

Yes.

- City funding for community land trusts and programs modeled after Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC)?

Yes.

- Decreasing carbon footprints of existing buildings through retrofits, prioritizing and fully funding NYCHA

Yes.

- Centering and working with front-line, working-class communities of color while developing and implementing green infrastructure?

Yes, absolutely. I foresee that this will not be done, and wealthy power brokers will try to capitalize the most on the expansion of green infrastructure. We need to make sure communities of color are in the center of this.

- Stopping all proposed new fossil fuel infrastructure, as well as drawing down all existing fossil fuel infrastructure in the next decade?

Yes.

- Divesting City pension funds from all fossil fuel industries?

Yes. The “socially accountability” account that current and former city employees use just eliminates alcohol and weapons. We need to make this move and divest across the board.

- Framing low-carbon public transit as a right and making the subway, buses, and transportation system free in the city?

Yes.

- Increasing green, transit-oriented infrastructure, such as bike lanes and bus lanes, even if at the expense of parking and extra lanes for private motorists??

Yes!! It's crazy we give street parking away for free. More bike lanes. More bus lanes. We need to move away from a driver centric urban planning perspective that the racist Robert Moses stamped onto this city. There is a vocal minority in this district of anti bike lanes “activists”. I will not give up any ground to them.

- Limiting the use of rideshare programs that flout worker rights and city regulations

Yes. We need to also work to support taxi drivers. It took far too long to get an app developed to facilitate more people using taxis, and we need to not leave them out to dry.

- Eliminating parking placards

Yes. Placard abuse is rampant and needs to be scrapped.

- Legalizing e-bikes and e-scooters

Yes.

- Reducing the city vehicle fleet by at least 25%, with a special focus on NYPD's fleet.

Yes. Bloomberg was a horrible Mayor for countless reasons. But one decent idea he had was to hire a “vehicle’s czar” to keep the vehicle fleet in check, and slow down vehicle purchases. It was wild how certain agencies were able to get capital funding for so many cars for positions that frankly didn’t need them. I don’t know if he is still working for the City, I imagine not, but I’d bring him back. And yes, the NYPD fleet is a major problem.

- Renewable Rikers

Yes.

1. How should we handle the power aspect of the proposed plan? Who should own the power assets proposed?

I think the City should own the power assets. We need to do whatever we can to keep this island out of the hands of developers, and ideally get it under control of DEP, who is more than capable of executing the project.

2. If the proposed study finds that there is too much needed extra capacity for the proposed Rikers wastewater treatment plant to replace other plants, do you support building one anyway? If not, what do you propose we do to eliminate our city’s CSO problem?

Yes. I have seen waste water go into the Gowanus canal during a mild rain. We need to do a collection of strategies to

bring down CSO, including greenstreets, more trees throughout the City, rain barrel distributions, and more green roofs and retrofittings. It is another policy problem that requires a vast program of efforts.

- Centering transit justice as an equity, racial justice and social justice issue and adopting a “15-Minute City” plan for all New Yorkers

Yes.

- Investing in public parks, green spaces, and community gardens and ending their privatization.

Yes! We need more green spaces, and they need to belong to the people.

- Building climate resilience measures such as hardened, raised architecture or expansion of wetlands, shores, and natural infrastructure around waterfronts and vulnerable areas.

Yes, this is a minimum.

- Ensure waterfronts are prioritized for use as accessible public spaces and floodwater catchments, rather than development parcels for private real estate.

Yes. There is a strong collection of people and activists pushing for this in Gowanus, and I think we will need to fight very hard for this since the existing development hasn't made access to the waterfront easy.

- Take community input and ecosystem preservation into account to democratically plan a managed retreat from coastlines. Ensure disaster relief efforts prioritize the most vulnerable communities, are not means tested, and do not require citizenship checks.

Yes.

- Having a municipally owned commercial waste collection system.

Yes, we need to end the private carters. They are incredibly inefficient, dangerous, and don't adhere to strong environmental standards. They are also much harder to regulate.

- Reducing food waste and expanding existing public food programs and municipal food purchasing and ensuring purchases are from farms that protect farmworkers rights and utilize regenerative and sustainable practices, including in urban farms.

Yes.

- Supporting publicly or municipally owned broadband and guaranteeing internet access to all.

Yes!

- Eliminating the jaywalking violation (Title 34, Section 4-04)

Yes.

- Restoring parking and traffic enforcement to the NYC DOT from the NYPD

Yes.

O. Foreign Policy



2. Do you support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement? If not, why?

I emphatically support BDS. I was incredibly disappointed that during my time at City Council Finance, in the Contract Committee, an anti-BDS bill came up for a vote. The Committee staff at the time essentially refused to work on it, and I was a part of that work protest. BDS was actually a major

topic of the IFPB tour I went on, which in 2009 was starting to gather energy. The activist community in Palestine has been advocating for this strategy, and the only way to truly engage in solidarity is to support the work they believe in.

District 39

Shahana Hanif

NYC-DSA City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2021

Shahana Hanif, City Council District 39
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A. DSA and Democratic Socialism

1. **Are you a member of DSA? If not, would you join?** I am a member of DSA!

2. **What is your theory of social change?**

We live in an era of profound inequity driven by the excesses of capitalism, political cronyism, and the concentration of power to a select few. Our communities – and particularly my generation and the generation after mine – are facing housing insecurity, inadequate and inaccessible healthcare, environmental dangers, and a system that commodifies our oppression through crippling debt, exorbitant cost of living, and obscenely low wages. Our worth is based on our perceived productivity, meanwhile corporate and political institutions are allowed to exploit us without impunity. To add insult to injury, we are then blamed and chastised for not being able to succeed in a system clearly meant to keep us disenfranchised.

A system like this cannot be changed incrementally. Rather, we need a true social and political revolution grounded in liberatory values centering joy and care for the working-class regardless of race, orientation, creed, or physical ability. True change is only possible through grassroots organizing and the mobilization of the working-class. We reach critical mass and racial solidarity by organizing and agitating a population fed up with the current structures that enable these inequities. Change must come from the bottom up by empowering the collective.

Growing up in a working-class immigrant neighborhood within District 39, class consciousness and struggle are a part of my lived experiences as a disabled Bangladeshi Muslim womxn. It became clear to me that we can no longer wait for the blessings of a single party or the ruling elite to foster change. The current structure seeks to blame the individual for poverty, homelessness, and inadequate distribution of commodities and services. This neoliberal framework seeks to promote a false narrative meant to keep the current order intact. That is why my campaign is presenting a vision grounded in a class analysis informed by lenses of gender and racial justice. A political revolution seeking to ameliorate injustice must not only be socialist but unapologetically feminist.

For this vision to come to fruition we must not only understand the history of oppression in the United States, but also learn from the liberation movements that allowed my parents to migrate here. As a Muslim womxn, I am inspired by the legacies of Black Muslim womxn who were pivotal in the successes of revolutionaries like Malcolm X, the Black Panthers, and the Young Lords. They embodied what our faith teaches, that “the condition of a people will not change unless they change their condition themselves.” Grassroots organizing, culturally relevant political education (for example, my earliest socialist and anti-capitalist inspirations are

Bangladeshi Muslim socialists Begum Rokeya and Maulana Bhashani), and civic engagement through a motivated and progressive electorate are how we will realize this vision.

Social change is community and activist driven. Community power is central and therefore, all movement spaces must be accessible and culturally responsive. Social change is people-powered, especially by those historically marginalized by this city and country. Change is always driven by communities, not elected officials. My role as City Council Member therefore is that of the organizer-elected official. I organize my constituents and provide fuel for social change and advocacy, not drive or force it. As any good organizer knows, this doesn't just mean planning rallies or debating political theories, it also means identifying and building leaders who in turn will build other leaders to carry on and improve the work we are doing. Social change needs to be inclusive and intersectional, centering Black and brown New Yorkers, immigrants, low-income and working class people, disabled, and queer people.

I believe that this vision will be successful when marginalized communities seize power. When we decommodify services which are basic human rights, such as healthcare, housing, utilities, transportation, and education. Right now, we are building that power by becoming civically engaged, holding our elected(s) accountable, forming progressive and liberatory working groups, and of course, running for office to promote and inform our socialist feminist project. Long term success requires building the leadership capacity of womxn and people of color within government and politics.

3. How does the campaign you are planning and the elected position you are considering relate to your theory of social change? How do you see electoral politics advancing socialism?

Coming from a tenant, immigrant, and disability rights organizing background, my theory of change recognizes the organizing adage that in order for a grassroots movement to be successful, it requires culturally relevant political education, relational organizing, and leadership development of impacted communities. It also acknowledges that as part of a well-rounded strategy for social change, we need to seize power through the legislative process in order to challenge the neoliberal establishment and advance our agenda on the local and national stage.

When Bernie Sanders ran for president in 2016, it captured the imagination of a populace exhausted by our current inequities. Whereas before concepts like decarceral abolitionism, Medicare for All, and free college education were discussions relegated to movement spaces, they are now part of mainstream discourse. Although we should celebrate this victory, we must also recognize that we are fighting for change within a capitalist framework. That is why my theory of change seeks to fundamentally transform how the electorate engages with the elected.

My campaign is community focused and driven. My policies are driven by local grassroots organizers, parents, community leaders, youth, and above all else, those directly impacted. I am being held accountable by them. Rather than the old model of access and proximity, I propose a new model of transparency, accountability, and collective power.

For example, I am expanding my education platform to respond to the new COVID-19 protocols around schools reopening and continuing education in our City. After speaking with local parents, students, and educators living, working, and/or attending school in the district, it was obvious to me that conversations around schools reopening will continue beyond Fall 2020 and requires a holistic and intersectional strategy that leaves no student behind. Our youth roundtable uplifted issues of public transportation and technology access, while parent leaders identified the need for public health experts to create a blueprint plan by neighborhood and to address the disenfranchisement of Black and brown students and families. These conversations guided my team to put together an informational survey in English, Bangla, and Spanish for parents and students to raise their concerns and priorities for the coming school year. As a former elementary and middle school student in the district, I know how difficult it is especially for immigrant and limited English proficient families to navigate a bureaucratic education space where parent leadership tends to be more affluent. During the peak of COVID-19, Bangladeshi families on my block had no Internet or remote learning devices for their school aged children. These conversations about school reopenings must happen in the people's languages or else our City only serves those who can speak, read and write in English.

The community's responses to this education survey will help advance policy recommendations and demands to organize around in the coming weeks. While the processes of deep community engagement and outreach are challenging, especially during a pandemic, they are priorities in achieving democratic socialist co-governance. They are further opportunities to build capacity and power among the community members involved, which by default creates a relationship rooted in accountability. In other words, I strongly believe in creating centers of communal power outside of the political subculture of consultants, stategists, and lobbyists that control the dynamics of the Democratic Party and political issues. By rejecting political subcultures, I am interested in advancing the demands of our movements and people that power them.

Electoral politics offers the opportunity for people to engage in the democratic process as an entry point to organizing and campaigning. I used this exact model within my own community during Bernie Sanders' 2016 and 2020 presidential candidacy. We not only spread Bernie's message but also educated our community on what socialism is, how Bangladeshis and Muslims have deep roots in socialist activism in our homeland and NYC, and in turn inspired a generation of organizers to become involved through our formations of the #BangladeshisForBernie and #MuslimsForBernie coalitions. Electoral politics can be used as a conduit in advancing socialism and it happens by creating grassroots centers of power through organizing and leadership development. I believe it is an elected official's job to listen to their constituents and their needs and to execute those ideas in the legislature.

4. Do you identify as a socialist? Yes!

5. What does socialism mean to you?

Socialism is people-powered and centered. It is the means by which the working-class can seize power and regulate the direction of government, rather than an elite ruling class. It puts

decision making power of public funds in the hands of the working-class so that we decide where and how resources are allocated. It means that we as a people control the distribution of wealth. Socialism means that things labelled as commodities like housing, utilities, education, labor, and healthcare are basic necessities and essential human rights and must be provided by the government.

I was politicized as a socialist while navigating NYC's nebulous healthcare system upon diagnosis with Lupus at 17. It baffled me that access to health insurance is tied to employment, and that as a sick and disabled womxn I needed to work to earn healthcare. I refuse this painful system for myself and those who rely on critical and frequent medical care and services. We must institute a single-payer/Medicare for All plan. For me, disability justice is central to socialism. Care and wellness are rooted in socialist liberation - I advocate for a government centered on the joy and radical care of those it governs.

I am in politics because I am a socialist who believes resources should be shared by everyone in my community, not just a select few. Socialism means ensuring that everyone has equitable access to resources in order to live and thrive within their communities. These are the values that I use to guide my work, my activism, and my praxis. I believe that a feminist socialist system will allow everyone, particularly those who have been historically marginalized by capitalist, imperialist, patriarchal, and racist systems, to have equity and justice.

- 6. Are you willing to run publicly as a socialist?** I am running publicly as a socialist! My policy platforms are grounded in socialism as well.
- 7. Will you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a slate?**

I am enthusiastic about running on a slate with candidates who share a commitment to the fight for liberation of working-class New Yorkers. I expect many DSA-endorsed candidates to share this commitment since I have been a supporter of past DSA-endorsed candidates, particularly Tiffany Cabán, Marcela Mitaynes, Phara Souffrant Forrest, Jabari Brisport, Boris Santos, and Zohran Mamdani. In 2019 I canvassed for Tiffany, with a crew from Brooklyn and a *Bangladeshis for Tiffany* coalition, which was the first iteration of an organization I co-founded, *Bangladeshi Americans for Political Progress (BAPP)*. I attended Marcela's campaign launch party and Jabari and Phara's campaign launch party. I have also publicly supported Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential bid in 2016 and 2020, as well as the elections of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rep. Ilhan Omar, and Rep. Rashida Tlaib. I had an opportunity to meet and build with Rep. Rashida Tlaib at Arab American Family Support Center's 2019 fundraiser and she shared insightful advice on running for office as a Muslim womxn.

- 8. Will you publicize DSA's endorsement?** Of course!
- 9. How does your candidacy represent the district you intend to run in, along with NYC-DSA?**

My candidacy represents NYC-DSA because my advocacy and record aligns with DSA's commitment to building working class power. I attended public schools in Brooklyn, and currently live with my family in Kensington. I am a product of my borough, district, and neighborhood. Having grown up in Brooklyn, I have seen political candidates run for office without a strong connection to the neighborhoods they seek to represent. I am a community member first, and an aspiring elected second.

I have been a vocal advocate within my community, regularly organizing around causes like affordable housing and shelters, immigrant rights, access to and creation of public plazas, and protection for survivors of domestic violence. Notably, I advocated for a South Asian immigrant womxn who was a survivor of domestic violence and modeled my campaign's [Survivor Security Fund platform](#) around her. As an alumna of Brooklyn College, I continue to advocate for students, particularly BIPOC students, through their Anti-Racist Coalition (ARC).

As a community activist I fought locally alongside The Kensington Stewards, a neighborhood association in Kensington that I helped form, to transform an empty lot into a public plaza: Avenue C Plaza. Prior to the creation of Avenue C Plaza, there was (and still continues to be) a lack of viable open spaces for the Kensington community, especially for immigrant womxn and families, to utilize and enjoy safely. Within the district, particularly within Kensington and Borough Park, the lack of public parks and open spaces prevent gathering and children from playing. Avenue C Plaza is a gender justice project for me as a means to reclaim public space. Underfunded public spaces put young womxn, queer and trans folks, and people of color at risk, due to increased risk of harassment. In Kensington there is a salient need for hangout spaces for Bangladeshi girls and womxn. By partnering with community organizations like Arts & Democracy, ArtBuilt Mobile Studios, Casa Cultural, Bangladeshi Institute of Performing Arts, Brooklyn Historical Society, Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM), and many others, we've activated Avenue C Plaza as a central hub for girls and womxn to create and take up space.

I have organized and advocated for my community, the district at large, and our needs through Participatory Budgeting (PB). One year I served as a Budget Delegate volunteer to help develop an idea proposed by a group of Bangladeshi womxn at a neighborhood assembly. Doing so was important for me because ideas submitted by Bangladeshi constituents fell through the cracks unless community members joined as a volunteer. As their conduit, I helped extract a project involving self-defense workshops for young Muslim womxn, which received the second highest amount of votes in my district that PB cycle.

PB is rooted in democratizing power over public funds, which in my district has resulted in critical and creative reinvestments to our schools, streets, and parks conceived by and voted on by the people. As the lead on PB, I prioritized onboarding youth and womxn leaders within PB's volunteer leadership infrastructure. As a result of these intentional additions, ideation and final projects reflect the needs of youth and Muslim womxn like the 10-week self-defense workshops facilitated by *Malikah*, a Muslim womxn led organization, and peer-to-peer workshops to destigmatize reproductive and sexual health for middle schoolers at MS 442. The MS 442 project was led by 8th grader Zoe Alperin from start to end with close support from me and our PB Youth Committee (the only one that exists among participating PB districts!). PB is the only

initiative in our city that centers the youth vote (11 year olds can vote!), but often the projects on the ballot don't reflect youth ideas or needs. I was and am hyper-focused on shifting the PB status-quo to reflect decision-making power from those directly affected. PB is an opportunity to mobilize around issues that local and state governments are unwilling to fund. For example, one cycle District 39 voted to secure a down-payment for elevators at the 7th Avenue F train station. This is a direct result of years of organizing and demanding elevators on 7th Avenue, the district's hospital district. We used PB to show the City and State that transit justice is what we want, even if this wasn't their priority.

- 10. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from for-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs?** Yes, and I have publicly committed not to do so.
- 11. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords?** Yes, and I have publicly committed not to do so.
- 12. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions or endorsements from organizations in the carceral system (such as law enforcement unions)?** Yes, and I have publicly committed not to do so.
- 13. Are you open to working with DSA when developing your platform?** Yes, I am. As it stands now, my platforms were created through direct community input.
- 14. Will you allow the DSA Electoral Working Group to create campaign materials to distribute during its work on your campaign?** Yes.
- 15. DSA has a large and active volunteer base. Will you support DSA training our own volunteers, running our own canvasses, and campaigning openly as DSA members?** Yes.
- 16. Who will be running your field program?** At the moment we do not have a specific group designing our field strategy. However, I have a brilliant team of volunteers and supporters, many with experience working in progressive local races and expertise in building a field program. We will continue to activate and train volunteers to support our field operations. We also welcome support from others in doing so.
- 17. Will you allow DSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program?** Yes, I enthusiastically welcome it!
- 18. Will you allow DSA to keep copies of all data we collect through voter contact?** Yes, and I believe DSA should keep that data in order to continue building the socialist movement.
- 19. What staff and/or consultants have you hired?** At the moment I have no paid staff on the campaign. It is a volunteer and supporter run initiative of organizers, community members, and friends. I have been in communication with different consultants who

have reached out and expressed interest in my campaign. However, I have not retained anyone at the time of writing.

- 20. What voter contact program are you using for your campaign?** I will be using VAN and Reach. I'm open to learning about others that may be most useful for this moment.
- 21. In past campaigns, DSA has had teams of member-organizers who work directly with campaign staff on areas such as field, communications, fundraising, data, and legal compliance. Will you agree to this arrangement and guarantee that your staff will build direct relationships with members of our campaign team?** Not only do I agree to this arrangement but many of my current campaign volunteers and supporters have direct relationships with DSA members or are members themselves. I look forward to collaborating with other comrades in all aspects of our grassroots campaign as well as fostering a sense of community and mutual support.

B. Goals of Your Campaign

1. What is your estimated number of votes needed to win?

During the 2018 primary election cycle, 30,958 voters turned out at the polls, an exponential increase from the 2017 primary which saw 12,467 voters. This includes a total of 16,900 triple-prime voters. Factoring in a mayoral election and RCV, we estimate that our win number will be between 8,000 - 9,001 voters. We are currently mapping out universes in order to get a better sense of what win numbers will look like as we inch closer to 2021.

2. What is the central message of your campaign?

I am striving to create a feminist, anti-capitalist government for all, one that centers care and joy and galvanizes to keep communities safe, housed, and fed without conditions. We deserve a government that doesn't rest until working-class people are liberated from current systems of oppression that cause and reinforce pain and harm. Local government is capable of looking out for communities block by block, and that's the kind of care my campaign embodies.

3. What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates?

District 39 has never been represented by a womxn, let alone a Bangladeshi Muslim womxn and first-generation daughter of immigrants. Further, we have never elected a representative outside of Park Slope since the 1990s. As a Kensington born and raised candidate, my candidacy represents a serious geographical shift in representation for the district. My community in Kensington is home to the largest Bangladeshi Muslim enclave in Brooklyn. In the early 1980s my father migrated from Bangladesh as a ship-jumper and was undocumented navigating the City as a restaurant worker, construction laborer, and in other low wage jobs to protect our extended family in the homeland. Kensington is where my parents built community and their home, and it's also where I politicized after my diagnosis with Lupus at 17. At its onset and newly disabled, I was in pain and exasperated navigating NYC's obscure health care system and

hospitals, inaccessible transit system, lack of translations and interpretation for my parents and broader community. Throughout my Lupus journey, I've had both of my hips and left shoulder surgically replaced, with other joint replacements in the foreseeable future. As an undergrad at Brooklyn College, I built closely with the Student Center for Disability Services to advocate for my rights as a disabled student. As a tenant organizer at CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities, I advocated for a flexible work schedule to allow me to recalibrate and organize from home once a week. My candidacy is rooted in disability justice, which rejects capitalist, white supremacist, patriarchal notions of disabled bodies as disposable and unproductive. Current governance structures do not allow disabled people, and particularly disabled womxn, to lead or run for office. In my district, we have an opportunity to shift the status quo on who leads. Central to my campaign message and advocacy is adequate access to healthcare services in tandem with transit accessibility especially for disabled New Yorkers and those living with and surviving chronic illness. I will lead in pushing the City Council to pass a resolution formalizing support for Medicare for All, reaffirming our commitment to help the most vulnerable in our city by supporting House Resolution 1384 - the Medicare for All Act. Healthcare is one of the top issues impacting womxn, people of color, immigrants, and working families. I have worked day in and day out to help immigrants in my district access healthcare and better understand their health insurance.

Gender justice is an issue that also sets me apart from other candidates. I know that support for survivors must be intersectional and holistic. Domestic violence advocacy is an issue of gender inclusion, immigration, language access, homelessness, and criminal justice reform. I've collaborated with multilingual and community-based service providers to advocate for survivors of domestic violence seeking support in my district. Most notably, I collaborated with the Asiyah Women's Center, the first Muslim womxn's shelter in Brooklyn, when it just opened in 2018. Its first resident was from Kensington, Ms. Zahan. According to Sakhi for South Asian Women, the organization's highest survivor intake of domestic violence cases in Brooklyn comes from the Kensington neighborhood. Our City has not done enough to protect survivors or invest in and cultivate targeted, multilingual services that reach the most vulnerable survivors like Ms. Zahan. My advocacy for Ms. Zahan was featured in [The New York Times](#). As she was transitioning from the shelter, I raised over \$4000 in survival funds as rent relief for a new apartment and bills as she searched for work. During COVID-19, I helped Sakhi for South Asian Women secure \$50,000 to help survivors obtain temporary housing amidst the pandemic. Our City is lagging behind on providing truly affordable housing options to survivors of gender-based and intimate partner violence. These experiences have informed my policy decisions. Ms. Zahan's case shaped the foundation for my Survivor Security Fund plan, which would provide immediate financial support to all survivors.

As a Council Member, I will advocate to equip survivors of gender-based and intimate partner violence with liberatory tools grounded in their safety and joy, using restorative approaches to dismantle pain and trauma. These tools include legal protections such as reforming early lease termination and lock-change policies to ensure survivors do not have financial barriers that prevent them from leaving an unsafe household, financial assistance for survivors such as the Survivor Security Fund, comprehensive and intersectional sex education, and access to

rehabilitative, trauma-informed care for survivors through establishing a hotline and employing social workers in the district office.

Another issue that distinguishes me is my push for accessible, resilient green spaces. This includes but isn't limited to creating public plazas, pedestrianizing streets, and adding more bike lanes. Every open space represents opportunities for resistance and organizing, like when I gathered with Desis Rising Up & Moving's (DRUM) Bangladeshi members after Friday prayer in October 2019 on Avenue C Plaza demanding the closure of Rikers without the creation of new jails. At the time, I was the only candidate in District 39 to publicly condemn the Mayor's jail expansion plan. Public spaces are sights for protest and building community solidarity, and are especially critical in the wake of heightened Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and other white nationalist attacks.

As District 39's Council Member, I will fund and partner with local arts and cultural organizations to activate plazas and public spaces throughout the district, through open street public programming. I will create green jobs through park stewardship and allocate funding to proper maintenance and public programming. I will host community town halls in open spaces for constituents to speak out about issues that matter to them, particularly following hate crimes (our district has unfortunately seen an uptick in anti-Semitic and Islamophobic hate crimes after the Trump's election in 2016). One way I've brought Muslim and Jewish neighbors (namely Congregation Beth Elohim and Kolot Chayeinu) together is by organizing our annual Muslim womxn led Kensington community iftar during Ramadan. It is not enough to show up for one another in response to hate crimes and xenophobic legislation. We must build intentionally beyond protests, and community celebrations rooted in love and safety are one way to actualize safety in solidarity.

Our public parks need to be safer, more accessible, and intentional about gender inclusion. Leading with my neighbors to demand a public plaza for us and other projects that involve the district's open spaces gave me the insight on the importance of such spaces for constituents, especially for families. This experience allowed me to shape my platform on one that prioritizes safe, clean, and accessible open spaces for District 39 constituents.

My immigrant and language justice work also set me apart from other candidates. I've been leading a biweekly, Bangla-equipped legal clinic for Kensington residents. Providing language accessible and free legal services is one way to show up for immigrants in the wake of Muslim bans and deportations. I'm committed to continuing this service both as a means to get vital immigration-related information (like when a judge blocked changes made by the Trump administration to fee waiver rules) to my community in Bangla and challenge voter suppression by helping community members on their path to citizenship or bring them into the campaign to fight for noncitizen voting access in municipal elections.

4. How will your campaign appeal to working class voters and those disaffected with the political process?

NYC has never elected a Bangladeshi and Muslim womxn representative at any levels of government. NYC has never elected a South Asian to the City Council. My candidacy has galvanized excitement among working-class immigrants and children of immigrants within the South Asian and Muslim communities, many of whom are first time political donors and voters. I have been intentional about expanding the electorate and inviting newly activated people and those traditionally sidelined into the political process. Candidates seldom invest in building with largely working-class Muslim and/or South Asian neighborhoods.

I am committed to engaging with voter constituencies that are historically excluded. My campaign has inspired young womxn, disabled and sick people, youth, survivors of sexual assault, taxi driver uncles in Kensington, and first generation working-class progressives.

I am pushing for a political process that is language accessible. As a fluent Bangla speaker (reader and writer), I have been sharing my visions in conversations with aunties and uncles throughout public spaces in Little Bangladesh, Kensington. I've also been building with Bangla ethnic newspapers and regularly appear on news shows hosted by *Time Television*, *TBN*, *Sandwip* to speak on the state of politics in NYC and issues impacting working-class communities. This was a critical way to get out the vote in the 2020 primaries. During peak COVID-19, I spoke on how our governments abandoned undocumented New Yorkers, many of whom are from Kensington. Also during the peak of COVID-19, I received nearly 200 phone calls between March and April from just appearing on these news channels with requests for status updates on unemployment insurance. Many of these callers were Uber and Lyft drivers, street vendors, restaurant workers frustrated with how our City had no immediate safety plan for them and was leaving them behind. This moment was an urgent opportunity to remind community members how corporations like Uber don't look out for their workers and how our City and State governments aren't doing enough to secure guaranteed protections for for-hire vehicle drivers, street vendors, domestic workers, and construction day laborers.

Language inaccessibility is often a barrier that prevents communities of color and immigrants from fully participating in the political process, and ensuring community reviewed translated materials is critical for deep engagement. As a campaign, we are practicing language justice and are making sure specific materials are available in multiple languages.

5. What party lines will you be seeking for the general election? Have you applied for the endorsement of the Working Families Party? Have you sought the endorsement of your county Democratic Committee?

For the general election, we will run on the Democratic ticket. We intend to seek the endorsement of the Working Families Party. We will not be seeking the endorsement of the county party. During the pandemic, the county party challenged ballot signatures and pushed for in-person hearings, putting candidates, campaign staff, and BOE workers at risk of COVID-19. This is absolutely unacceptable, and as such, I am not aligned with the county party.

6. How do you plan to approach Ranked-choice Voting?

It's critical that voters in my district understand the ranked-choice voting (RCV) system, and my team is committed to collaborating with local community groups and nonprofit organizations to educate district residents on how the ranked-choice voting process will work. We plan to do this outreach through community-centered events and workshops and ensure that all outreach will prioritize language accessibility, particularly in Spanish and Bangla.

In 2018, I was a huge proponent of passing ranked-choice voting because of the opportunities it extends to insurgent candidates, particularly womxn of color, and electing a candidate with a majority of the votes. Since its overwhelming win, I haven't seen our City prioritize voter education where it's most needed. I recognize that RCV will be difficult for first-time voters in my community but I am committed to including it in my core message and campaign materials.

7. How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race and what is your plan to raise it?

As of right now my campaign has raised \$53,371 with \$49,191 cash on hand. We have reached full-match (we were the first campaign to do so) and have money set for full on-cycle spending. We are raising an additional \$10K - \$20K for out-year spending depending on our needs.

Our fundraising has been successful in large part due to the strength of our relational organizing, my deep connections rooted in the district, and the hype and excitement around my campaign in both the press and on social media. We will reach the full \$190K in spending in order to have a competitive campaign, which we are already poised to have once matching funds are disbursed.

8. What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work or personal networks?

As a community organizer within my district, I have formed many close connections and relationships with different local grassroots organizations, particularly ones that center BIPOC voices, immigrant voices, feminist voices, and voices from working-class backgrounds. The organizations and affiliations I've been building with include Arts & Democracy, ArtBuilt Mobile Studios, Casa Cultural, Bangladeshi Feminist Collective, Asian American Feminist Collective, Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM), Sakhi for South Asian Women, CUNY Citizenship Now!, Participatory Budgeting, Malikah, The Center for Anti-Violence Education, South Asian Youth Action, Congregation Beth Elohim, Bangladeshi Institute of Performing Arts (BIPA), Bangladeshi Ladies Club, Arab American Family Support Center, Shetu, People in Need, Muslims Giving Back, Kensington/Windsor Terrace Mutual Aid Network, Masbia, Muslims Thrive, Older Adults Technology Services, The Kensington Stewards, The Singing Winds, Brooklyn Historical Society, Equality for Flatbush, One World Project, Garden Train, Carroll Gardens Association, Asiyah Women's Center, Prospect Park Alliance, CAMBA, and Old Stone House of Brooklyn.

I have deep ties within Bangladeshi feminist spaces in Kensington, which has made it easier to raise funds quickly for domestic violence survivors and womxn and youth at risk of

displacement. In addition, I'm closely connected with Bangladeshi association and mosque leaders. During the peak of COVID-19, we worked in a coalition to purchase and deliver groceries to families across Brooklyn. They also donated to my financial mutual aid effort to help undocumented Bangladeshis within the district.

As an alumna of Brooklyn College, I have engaged in activism on the campus, including organizing and advocating for the Muslim Students Association who were surveilled by undercover NYPD officers, Students for Justice in Palestine, and currently, I am a member of the Anti-Racist Coalition (ARC).

9. What endorsements do you have from elected officials, political organizations, unions and community leaders?

As the time of writing, I do not have any formal public endorsements. Linda Sarsour donated to my campaign on the day I launched.

10. How do you see yourself acting as a movement candidate? What does that mean to you?

This campaign is not focused on me as an individual but rather what local activists and community members have long fought and advocated for. Every action I take as a part of the campaign focuses on and centers the community (my policy visions are created with local activists and grassroots organizers). A movement candidate to me is a candidate who is not focused on being the "face" of a movement or platform but rather, someone who advocates and believes in the cause of the many and will serve as a vessel in relaying these ideas to those in government. A movement candidate is someone who, because their campaign will not end with them, will ensure that the ideas of the community will continue to be heard. Further, accountability is a core tenet of my theory of change.

C. Goals in Office

1. If elected, you'll be one of a few representatives who support a Democratic Socialist vision for our city. How will you work with other democratic socialists and allies in the City Council and other bodies (such as the state legislature) to form a unified and effective democratic socialist movement in the New York government?

The challenges that NYC faces post-COVID-19 not only require a socialist vision, they also require collaboration with the state legislature to truly address the problems at hand (ex: taxing wealthy New Yorkers). As more democratic socialists take seats in Albany, we have an opportunity to work closely with our colleagues in the state legislature to align our city-level vision with the state-level changes that are needed to avoid preemption. I also look forward to supporting and electing a bloc of democratic socialists within the City Council who can build in coalition to respond to the urgent needs of working-class people (defunding the NYPD, closing Rikers, condemning the creation of new jails, bringing public power and free Internet are examples) and work together toward making Council operate more democratically and expanding Participatory Budgeting.

2. Beyond contributing significantly to capacity in field, fundraising and other aspects of the campaign, would you be open to having DSA members as staff in policy positions and/or to collaborating with our working groups on policy?

Yes! Our campaign policy team members all identify as socialists. We are open to having DSA members provide feedback to our policy team on past positions while ensuring that all DSA feedback will align with the needs of the community.

- **Do you know any members you'd feel confident could act in these positions?**

Kayla Santosuoso, Naomi Dann, Saul Ferholt-Kahn, Abdullah Younus, Linda Sarsour, William Giron, Mohammed Khan, Stephanie Silkowski.

I have a long-time relationship with the people listed above but I am equally excited about building with other comrades as well.

- **Do you have a relationship with any of our working groups?**

I've been in conversation with the members of the Brooklyn Electoral Working Group, namely Offer Egozy, Devin McManus, and Elizabeth Skeen. Together with South Brooklyn DSA members Noah Abraham Weston and Jared Watson I hosted a Bernie voter registration and outreach event in August 2019.

3. What would the role of constituent services staff in your district be?

The constituent services staff will include organizers responsible for providing constituents with vital direct services and referrals while mapping the district's needs to build community power and leadership. I envision a multilingual constituent services team that is equipped to lead Participatory Budgeting and other community engagement initiatives, host regular tenants' rights workshops, legal clinics, and mental health counseling, and coordinate neighborhood actions and protests to fight against predatory landlords and demand better services from City agencies. The constituent services team will also help determine which organizations should be invested in through discretionary funding to go toward vital programs supporting seniors, digital inclusion, immigrant communities and more. They will also be tasked to build with funded organizations by co-creating initiatives and relevant programming for the district.

Given the district's multi-neighborhood coverage, having pop-up offices across the district is crucial. I intend to have rotating mobile offices in every neighborhood in partnership with existing community spaces to anchor my office's reach and constituent attention. The constituent services team will work in close partnership with a radical communications team to uplift the demands of the movement.

As District 39's Council Member, I will ensure that constituent outreach can provide resources to the community without having to rely on policing (ex. creating a hotline for domestic violence survivors in the district office, ensuring that constituent services staff are able to direct constituents to local grassroots based mental health services, etc).

4. Do you think there is a role for district staff in creating a climate for radical political change?

Yes! In particular, radical legislative staff can help push for long-term systemic change and radical constituent liaisons can ensure that all resources provided reflect the needs and wants of the local community.

5. Will you agree to appear periodically at monthly DSA branch meetings in your district?

Absolutely! I am accountable to my constituents and am running on that promise.

6. Will you join a Democratic Socialist caucus in the City Council?

It would be an honor to join a socialist caucus within the City Council whether or not I receive the DSA endorsement.

7. If elected, what are your top 3 legislative priorities?

1. Defunding the NYPD
2. Establishing a Survivor Security Fund
3. Expanding Participatory Budgeting

8. What committees would you want to join?

Committee on Immigration, Committee on Women and Gender Equity, Committee on Land Use.

9. Who do you think you will support as Speaker of the City Council?

This moment calls for a rethinking of the City Council Speaker and their powers. With Speaker Corey Johnson we've had to put up with immoral budget cuts across individual districts when Council Members didn't vote his way. He has consistently wielded egregious power and thrown Council Members under the bus. The Speaker cannot act like a dictator and be vindictive when members side with justice and their constituencies. At this moment, the Speaker holds unchecked and often abusive decision-making power and displays preferential treatment to members on their side. Ideally, the incoming Speaker should be a socialist who will advocate with radical care to build up our City. I will be organizing with left-leaning and socialist members as part of the process to democratically elect a Speaker who is committed to the interests of working-class New Yorkers.

D. COVID-19 Policy and Demands

1. Will you sign onto and advocate for NYC-DSA's [The People's Bailout for New York: A Socialist Response to the COVID-19 Crisis?](#)

I support the principles within the bailout, and I have [my own COVID-19 response that reflects these values specifically for District 39](#).

2. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Making all COVID-19 testing and treatment free and accessible? Yes.
- Permanently housing the homeless using all means available, including emergency rent assistance and seizing vacant property through eminent domain? Yes.
- Canceling rent and debt payments for the duration of the crisis? Yes.
- Reducing policing during the crisis by putting a moratorium on arrests and limiting police enforcement of social distancing rules? Yes.
- Blocking ICE from hospitals and courthouses? Yes.

3. How will you fight city budget cuts to social services that will be proposed in the wake of COVID-19?

Defunding the NYPD (see my policy platform ['Divest from the NYPD, Invest in Community Safety'](#)) and working with colleagues in Albany to raise taxes on millionaires and the ultra-wealthy in New York. I will also vote "no" on budgets that cut social services.

E. Housing and Land Use

1. Do you believe housing is a human right and should be guaranteed to all?

Yes. Our housing policy platform is centered on the premise that housing is a human right and homes should be guaranteed.

2. What are your proposals for creating deeply and permanently affordable housing for all New Yorkers?

Allocating funding to provide technical assistance for Community Land Trusts (CLTs); voting "no" on any land use proposals that do not meet the needs of the district (through deep and permanent housing affordability, public infrastructure investments and a commitment to high-quality high-paying jobs for our neighbors) or will have a potential long-term effect of gentrifying the community; centering community voices in all land use proposals; and ensuring that we work to urge the State to pass legislation that supports deeply and permanently affordable housing. I commit to a Homes Guarantee plan at the local level.

In addition, I fully support applications for non-profit managed affordable and supportive housing, funding and supporting cooperative ownership models, and pushing for deeper affordability commitments on MIH proposals. I will work to sponsor and support the passage of City legislation and fight for budget commitments that provide deeply affordable housing for the New Yorkers who need it most.

3. What do you see as the causes of gentrification and displacement? How will you address them as a Council Member?

New York City was formed off of gentrification and forced displacement, beginning with the Dutch and English stealing land from the Lenape. Gentrification and displacement in the City has continued through a history of racist urban planning processes, most notably seen through the creation of Central Park (which stole land from Seneca Village). Robert Moses' work and infrastructure led to the displacement of Black neighborhoods and furthering of environmental racism through highway placement in Black neighborhoods. This has continued into policies that are used today such as school segregation policies seen in School District 15 and rezoning processes such as ULURP that have led to planned or approved rezonings of Downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City, and Gowanus. These rezonings have explicitly displaced Black, Latinx, low-income, and immigrant residents and businesses because of racist policies, inviting big businesses like Amazon to displace low-income residents and erode neighborhood character. In addition, the City has many real estate backed elected officials who have taken money from private developers which ensures that decisions made in the Council protect the interests of developers.

As District 39's Council Member, I will first and foremost engage in community-based planning in all land use decisions. I will ensure that all land use planning is racially and environmentally sensitive and focuses on the needs of the community, creates and protects more affordable housing, sustains local businesses, and creates accessible open spaces. I also commit to saying "no" on any projects that have a potential long-term effect on displacing neighborhoods and communities or any projects that have a disproportionate impact on BIPOC (ex. decisions like the Borough Based Jails project).

4. Would you support an immediate moratorium on the sale or lease of all city-owned land to for-profit developers? Would you require that any housing built on public land be 100% permanently affordable to low- and extremely-low income New Yorkers? How would you determine the affordability levels of housing built on public land?

Yes, I will advocate for the use of community land trusts to create more affordable housing for the community. I will require all housing built on public land to be 100 percent permanently affordable to low- and extremely-low income New Yorkers. I will ensure that the City Council implements a "social housing" structure on all City-owned housing developments. I will also ensure that the zoning process emphasizes long-term planning to ensure that affordable housing can be created and sustained.

In determining the affordability levels of housing built on public land, I will ensure that the City is able to provide grants to these projects to ensure that it could meet the deepest affordability without compromising quality and sustainability of the housing. City provided grants will allow housing to remain affordable for more low- and extremely-low income New Yorkers without having to rely on target households from higher AMI levels. I'll be advocating to change the way AMI is determined and push for municipal authority. Currently, the AMI depicts a skewed measure of affordability by including Westchester, Putnam, Fairfield, and Rockland.

5. What is your assessment of the commercial rent crisis in New York City? How would you address it? What are your positions on the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA—Int 0737-2018) and Commercial Rent Stabilization bill (Int 1796-2019) currently in committee in the City Council?

The commercial rent in the City continues to increase across the five boroughs, which have made it impossible for long-standing small business owners to remain in the community. This has resulted in increasing big box businesses in the City, contributing to gentrification of our neighborhoods. In addition, the commercial rent crisis has also resulted in many vacant storefronts and other commercial spaces in the City - spaces that could be utilized for community members.

To address this crisis, I've developed [a platform that focuses on community investment in local small businesses](#). As a part of my platform, I will work to ensure that workers and local small businesses are given COVID-19 relief and rights through a right to counsel for small business employees, the creation of an undocumented worker bill of rights, and partner with the State legislature to ensure legal employment protections against harassment or workplace discrimination for survivors of COVID-19, protections for workers who refuse to work without proper PPE. I will also work to provide and retrofit small businesses with hand sanitizer dispensers, gloves, masks for employees, and other materials needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, I will work to empower and invest in local businesses to combat gentrification. One way to do this is to provide language accessible workshops to guide business owners and employees to obtain resources, gain critical information and support to expand their business digitally, apply for certifications, and access post-COVID-19 relief programs. I will also advocate for community members to be able to invest in their own communities to prevent gentrification. The ways I will work to ensure this is through 1) investing capital budget into entrepreneur mentorship opportunities and workshops for New York City public school students, especially underfunded schools in predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods, 2) reinvesting in Student Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and expanding the opportunity for youth to work in small businesses, 3) expanding CUNY Service Corp to provide CUNY students with internships at small businesses, and 4) hosting block parties with BIPOC owned local businesses in the district.

I support both the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA—Int 0737-2018) and Commercial Rent Stabilization bill (Int 1796-2019). However, I believe the Commercial Rent Stabilization bill

should be expanded to include long term leases, eligibility for small art venue spaces, and the creation of an independent rent control board for commercial spaces. The proposed rent control board should incorporate more community members, especially community members of color and immigrants. As a Council Member, I will work to ensure that this bill or other legislation addressing small businesses will incorporate the aforementioned.

**6. What is your assessment of the City's current land use approval process (e.g., ULURP)?
How would you advocate changing it?**

The City's current land use approval process is exclusionary and does not take into account marginalized voices, specifically BIPOC voices, immigrant voices, and voices from the working-class. An example of this is the make up of community boards, which are predominately white, able-bodied, and working 9-5 jobs. Community Boards have a lot of accessibility issues that do not allow more community members to attend and actively participate. I briefly served on Community Board 12, which did not have a working website nor share regular updates, which impacts the public's attendance in meetings. In addition, the ULURP timeline is not reflective of the planning and negotiations needed to make a thoughtful decision for the community and its people. Local residents, who are on these boards and attend these meetings, are doing the work on a volunteer basis and may not have the time and resources to devote to planning sessions like private developers do. This results in a lot of land use decisions being approved without careful planning that is considerate of community needs.

As it stands right now, ULURP is a system that forces neighbors to react to individual proposals from the Mayor and corporate developer interests instead of providing communities the opportunity to proactively plan for what THEY want to see in their communities. I will be advocating for a community-led comprehensive plan so that individual ULURP actions could instead be first and foremost measured against whether the application furthers the community's vision for the neighborhood.

As a Council Member, I will ensure that the ULURP timeline is extended and that the process is more community-focused, not just relying on the voices of the Community Board, the Borough President, and the City Planning Commission. I will work to ensure that accessibility is expanded for more community members to engage in the planning process such as expanding language access or providing child care. City Planning should also have more community-driven racial impact and environmental impact studies, with the inclusion of a community impact statement. The City planning process must include voices of local grassroots organizations in the planning and feedback process.

7. Do you support Mayor de Blasio's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH/ZQA) program? What do you think of the strategy of creating affordable housing by incentivizing private developers?

No. While I support efforts to build and increase access to affordable housing, this administration's implementation of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) has utterly failed to achieve its stated goals. Units created under MIH are rarely affordable for the lowest-income

New Yorkers, and even many middle-income tenants would be rent-burdened if they moved into the so-called "affordable" units created under MIH.

De Blasio has unfairly targeted low-income communities of color for MIH upzonings in exchange for LONG OVERDUE investments in schools, parks, and transit only to produce a handful of so-called "affordable" units that are totally inaccessible to the folks who live in that neighborhood. This administration's rezonings which rely on developer incentives have sped displacement and gentrification and destabilized our communities without making any meaningful contributions to our affordable housing stock.

Our affordable housing policies and planning processes must be completely overhauled to ensure that wealthier neighborhoods — with greater access to opportunity — get their fair share of deeply affordable housing. Just as importantly, we must develop new mechanisms to guarantee that all development (including as-of-right development) is required to provide affordable housing instead of relying on incentives for developers and corporate interest.

MIH is a failed policy that underscores how the housing crisis isn't simply driven by a lack of available units, as developers would have you believe — the crisis is driven by developer greed prioritized over truly affordable housing. Private developers are not looking out for the interests of working-class people. No amount of incentive has led to the creation of affordable housing. Private developers have sped up gentrification and displacement in our communities.

- 8. Do you support imposing affordability requirements on as-of-right development?**
Absolutely.
- 9. What role do you think land zoned for manufacturing use should play in New York's economic ecosystem? Would you seek to increase or decrease land zoned for manufacturing? Why?**

As unemployment rises post COVID-19, it is especially crucial to maintain and create employment opportunities, particularly accessible and green jobs, within the district. Within Gowanus in particular, rezoning processes have eroded manufacturing and industry jobs. These jobs are important for the community, especially for folks who are in the trade profession or have trade skills, typically folks of color or from immigrant communities. In addition, manufacturing spaces allow for local businesses to utilize this land for production of their goods and services. If land is zoned for manufacturing use in the City, it must be centered around the economic development and growth of local neighborhoods and community members. All land use zonings should account for the creation of jobs and services prioritized for the local community.

I will support the increase of land zoned for manufacturing only if it meets the needs of the community and does not take away viable land for affordable housing.

- 10. How would you seek to end racist and economically discriminatory and undemocratic rezonings?**

Almost all rezonings have been racially and economically discriminatory. Within my district, the Gowanus rezoning fails to thoughtfully listen to community voices, especially the voices of communities of color, through the implementation of a planning process that excludes NYCHA residents. That hasn't stopped NYCHA residents from organizing to delineate demands for overdue investments in Gowanus. Ending undemocratic rezonings requires reshaping the land use and planning process to include racial and environmental impact studies on all projects, rethinking the make-up of Community Boards and the City Planning Commission, and extending the time on ULURP. City planning in New York is systemic and therefore, the systems must be rethought and changed to implement comprehensive planning.

- **What is/has been the most important land use fight in your district? What position did you or would you advocate for?**

The biggest land use fight in my district is the glaring lack of affordable housing. While the Gowanus rezoning process claims to increase racial diversity and affordable housing, which gentrification and displacement have targeted, local advocates, NYCHA residents, and community residents are wary of past rezonings and their failure to follow through on racially just promises. In my soon to be released housing and land use platform, I have advocated for a special environmental justice district zoning that considers the need for affordable housing, toxic waste protections, and prevents gentrification. I have based this platform on the demands of local grassroots activists. As a part of this platform, I oppose the privatization of NYCHA and advocate for NYCHA to be fully funded for capital improvements and other forms of City-owned housing within the district. While there is no NYCHA development located within District 39, the Gowanus rezoning fight must include NYCHA residents. I've been building with the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Fifth Avenue Committee, FUREE, and the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice. The Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice has laid out clear demands, the top being upfront funding for the three developments: Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Gardens, and Warren Street Houses. NYCHA is the most affordable housing in New York City, and though there is no housing managed by the authority in District 39, I see it as a necessity to be accountable to these communities because the impacts of poor land use decisions have long-term consequences to New Yorkers living in public housing.

11. Do you support creating a comprehensive plan and/or community-based plans?

Yes. Comprehensive planning and community-based planning are the only ethical means of urban planning and tackling racist and exclusionary NIMBYism to ensure that all neighborhoods do their fair share to tackle our housing affordability crisis; community-based planning is only legitimate when the process is proactively community-led and diverse outreach is thorough and prioritized. Throughout the district, community-based planning processes were supposed to include community members (the following are not examples of comprehensive plans but the D15 diversity plan, Gowanus Rezoning, Participatory Budgeting have executed community-led engagement processes), but in practice, the outreach is inadequate and often not conscious of language justice. Community members are owed a right to space and place within the process of building comprehensive, community-based plans.

12. How would you identify and obtain funds to rectify the chronic underfunding of maintenance and capital repairs in NYCHA buildings?

Austerity budgets are not the answer. While Participatory Budgeting has provided a tiny funding stream to repair NYCHA buildings and should continue to be used, PB money is simply not enough to address billions of dollars worth of immediate improvements. Capital funding allocated to NYCHA should be increased with an accountability/watchdogging process to ensure repairs are actually addressed. To fully fund NYCHA, we must abolish 421a, oppose RAD, and tax the rich. These demands require a broad coalition, and to that end, I will be working closely with State and Federal electeds to allocate and secure funding for improvements in NYCHA developments.

- **Will you commit to ending the sale or leasing of NYCHA land and air rights?**
Yes.
- **Do you support the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program?** No.
- **What would you do to increase tenants' democratic control?**

My constituent services team and I will host regular workshops for tenants to learn about how to organize a tenant association in their building. These workshops will include a legal clinic, local neighborhood tenants' rights organizations, presentations on new and existing rent laws, and more. I helped create a Bangladeshi and broader Asian tenants' association at Queensbridge Houses as an organizer at CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities. The base-building process was slow but meaningful, and required investing in tools for language justice to translate key documents and flyers and provide interpretation at meetings. Our meetings were in Bangla, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean. As such, multilingual base building and organizing are priorities to expand tenants' democratic control.

I know how difficult it is for communities with limited English proficiency to access resources. Oftentimes, these communities may not even understand their rights fully when it comes to issues like healthcare, workers rights, and tenant protections. An example of this is how in 2019 the New York State Legislature passed an excellent package of reforms to protect rent stabilized tenants. But the information about these new tenant protections hadn't reached every New Yorker. It hadn't reached New Yorkers who are limited English proficient; it hadn't reached working-class immigrant communities like mine. Our most vulnerable neighbors deserve readable information and a commitment from their city government to improve language access. Doing so will increase tenants' democratic control.

Last but certainly not least, I will continue to advocate and promote the establishment of CLTs.

13. Do you support the expansion of the Family Re-Entry Program to allow people coming home from incarceration the ability to live in public housing? Yes.

14. What reforms would you advocate in all agencies that touch on land use decision-making, such as the Department of City Planning (DCP), the City Planning

Commission (CPC), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Buildings (DOB), the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) or any other relevant bodies, to remove the influence of the real estate industry from agency decision making?

The real estate industry and harmful developers have an aggressive and invasive presence within the City's municipal urban planning and land use decision-making processes. Real estate's malignant and undue influence has caused rapid gentrification, de-prioritization of resiliency for waterfront communities, urban sprawl, endless construction and resulting noise pollution in our neighborhoods, environmental racism, and constant displacement. Firstly, candidates and elected officials should not be beholden to real estate developers, and I have publicly pledged not to take contributions from them.

Change within municipal land use agencies requires transforming agency culture, through involving more community groups in decision making. Removing the influence of the real estate industry means taking a rigorous community based planning approach - community members are **the** most important and influential stakeholders, not landlords or developers. This requires an ethic of planning *with*, not *for*, our most vulnerable populations. Community based planning must be accessible, and outreach should always be directed towards NYCHA residents, immigrants and undocumented folks, limited English proficient New Yorkers, and other groups whose voices are routinely left out of the planning process.

This is a long term and expansive process, but can involve removing qualifications that exclude candidates without professional degrees in recruitment, prioritizing candidates with experience and engagement with grassroots organizing, mandating racial and economic impact assessments as part of environmental impact assessments, abolishing practices that cede control and ownership of public land to developers, like Publicly Owned Private Spaces (POPs), and investigating agency corruption and collusion with real estate money.

15. How will you protect public parks and green spaces from privatization by developers and conservancies?

All public spaces should be public and not privatized. While some local conservancies, like the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, provide crucial services like caring for and stewarding land, providing educational resources about environmental issues, and creating green jobs within the neighborhood, public land should be *publicly* owned, and no one should ever have to pay to gain access to a public space. Our city is constantly privatizing public spaces, through implementing Privately Owned Public Spaces. Protecting these spaces from privatization mandates expanding the budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation, properly funding and supporting existing green spaces so that they are accessible and publicly used, and expanding DOT and DCP programs to revitalize (not gentrify) our open spaces.

In Kensington I formed the *Kensington Cultural Council*, a coalition of local arts-based organizations (Casa Cultural, ArtBuilt Mobile Studios, Arts & Democracy, Bangladeshi Institute of Performing Arts, The Singing Winds, The Kensington Stewards, Charukantha), which serves

as a stewardship partner for oversight on community-led programming on Kensington Plaza and Avenue C Plaza. Developing local leadership for place-making is what supports community resiliency. City agencies like the DOT and DPR should invest in neighborhood plaza partnership initiatives for community capacity building, and work closely with City Council members for implementation.

16. Will you support the following as a City Council member: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Increased funding to enforce recently passed rent regulation laws? Yes.
- Vastly increasing funding and support for democratically controlled low-income housing, such as Community Land Trusts (CLTs)? Yes.
- Increased funding for enforcement of fair housing laws? Yes.
- The aggressive use of city programs and eminent domain to take ownership of distressed properties and transfer them to community control? Yes.
- Removing all city funding from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and eliminating all of the EDC's power in relation to land use, planning, and economic development? Yes.
- Lobbying for the repeal of 421-a and redirecting money to permanent, non-profit, cooperatively-owned, or public affordable housing programs? Yes.

17. Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist land use platform?

I am open to working with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist land use platform that centers coalition-building and a community-based planning approach to align with the needs of the community.

F. Expanding and Deepening Our Democracy

1. How would you seek to increase democratic involvement and representation within your district?

Democratic involvement is an issue of accessibility. I will increase democratic involvement and civic engagement within my district by increasing language accessibility within public services, ensuring that folks who have mobility needs are able to attend and participate in events, providing child care for folks who may need it. Increasing involvement also means actively listening to feedback from local community members and acting on that feedback - present and involved Council Members encourage engagement from constituents.

2. How do you view the role of the Council, particularly in comparison to the Mayor, Comptroller, and Public Advocate?

The Council has a unique role in the City as it is a legislative body and the point of contact for direct and grassroots constituent services work. It is the most constituent-present role among the other citywide roles wherein the Council Member is directly on the ground within the geographical area of the district. This makes the City Council a more community-based role, in

my opinion, as opposed to the others because it is the body that works directly with constituents. Therefore, the Council has an important role to be radical advocates for constituents of their district in legislative matters. We have unfortunately seen how Council Members have not been supportive voices for their community in matters such as the Borough-Based Jails plan and the failure to meet the recent demand to defund the police in the FY 2021 City budget. Under the right Council Member, this role can be transformed to that of an organizer-elected, a true advocate for their district's communities. With a slate of 51 members, the Council can be a powerful player in setting the tone of the City's overall legislative direction.

3. What are your thoughts on community boards and their role in city governance? Do you want to change how the boards are selected and/or operate? If so, how? What interests or communities would you try to represent with your appointments?

Community boards are overwhelmingly white, affluent, homeowners, and will require an overhaul to truly reflect a more representative membership that includes womxn of color, youth, people with disabilities, parents, and working-class communities. Setting member term limits is one reform that can create a fast track to onboard new members. I was a huge proponent of the charter amendment to set term limits (#YesYesYes campaign), especially after my own experience seeing the disparity while serving on Community Board 12. All too often, vacancy rests on a member dying or resigning. At age 26, I was the youngest person serving on the Community Board! At this moment, the unpaid membership structure isn't sustainable and is a big barrier to working-class participation - members should be paid for their time and participation. Further, the in-person attendance requirement will continue to be a challenge for those with childcare and accessibility needs. Community Board meetings and other public community meetings and initiatives, including Participatory Budgeting, should be accessible through video conferencing or tele-meeting participation. Allowing for flexible participation expands who is in the room, including parents, people with disabilities, working-class people, and youth.

4. What are your thoughts on nonpartisan city elections?

Nonpartisan city elections should be done in the City because partisan city elections currently exclude independents or other third parties. When elections exclude those folks, not every voice is heard. In addition, many leftists are not registered Democrats and are therefore not eligible to vote for leftist candidates in the primary, leaving them without a voice in the electoral process.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Increasing the public matching funds ratio for New York City elections? Yes.
- Requiring all Council Members to participate in Participatory Budgeting and expanding funding for the program? Yes!!! PB is my damn jam.
- Offering all City residents the right to vote in City elections, regardless of immigration status or prior felony conviction?

Yes! Non-citizens and folks with prior felony convictions should by default have the right to vote in City elections. They should also run for office and be elected to lead. Elected officials serve the entire community, not a select few. Barring undocumented residents or folks with prior convictions from voting only reinforces the prison-industrial complex and national borders.

G. Labor

1. What is your relationship to unions and the labor movement in New York City?

I am a staunch advocate for the creation of the New York City Council Union to represent City Council employees. I am a proud member of the union. In addition, I've advocated for working-class Bangladeshi, Sudanese, and Latinx communities, Make the Road NY, and domestic workers as the Director of Organizing at Council Member Brad Lander's office. In my role, I continue to support Bangladeshi Uber, Lyft, Postmates, and Doordash workers. Therefore, I understand the importance of advocating for workers first and how unions play a huge role in advocating for workers and obtaining their rights.

2. What would you do to support the rights of workers to form unions, and to expand unionization in New York City?

I will continue to advocate for more accessibility for workers to form and join unions in the City. I will ensure that there is legislation to create legal protections for workers to be able to be protected from retaliation and/or harassment from employers if they decide to join or form a union. I support Just Cause and worker co-determination.

3. What minimum salary do you promise to pay your staffers? How does this reflect your ideas of what a living wage should be, and who should have access to the political system?

It's so critical to value district office staff (the constituent services team). In my staffer position, I was one of two womxn of color on staff. I began as a part-time *community liaison*, and the other staffer, a black womxn, is our office manager. These positions are often delegated to people of color, thus making them positions that are overall, undervalued and underpaid. I want to see more people of color, and especially black womxn and womxn of color, in legislative and budget roles. By default, these positions are higher paid, skew white, and provide the greatest access to the political process. As we determine salary, I want to be cognizant of who is hired. I do not want to replicate a hiring culture that fails entry of people of color in political organizing and government. \$50K as a starting salary is a must - anything lower does not advance pay equity. Interns should also be paid, and the minimum wage should be increased. And of course, I support my staff unionizing.

4. How should New York respond to the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* case?

One of the biggest issues with post-*Janus* is that it is becoming more difficult to ask more workers to join unions due to costs and outreach. To solve the issue of membership costs, the

City Council can allocate funds to worker-based grassroots organizations, which in turn can provide stipends to local workers who want to join unions but would be unable to afford membership without that stipend. To solve the outreach issue, constituents should be given information on how to join a union and how they can benefit from a union membership. To allow more folks to understand why union membership is beneficial, the Council can host language accessible workshops to inform constituents about union membership.

5. How can we ensure fair conditions for people working in New York City's gig economy?

The Council should advocate for and create a gig worker bill of rights and protections (including protections for fair wages, sexual harassment protections, discrimination protections, paid time off, paid sick, and access to affordable health benefits). In addition, the Council should support gig workers organizing to build worker power and create legislation that will prevent corporations, companies, etc. from exploiting gig workers. The Council should also provide access to free or low cost legal counsel for gig workers in negotiations or disputes with their company.

6. Will you unconditionally support any striking workers in New York, even if their actions violate legal restrictions?

Yes, workers' rights should come first and foremost. Striking is a way for workers to ensure that their demands are heard, especially in a capitalist system that exploits their workers. Striking is sometimes the only way that change is made because the system favors bosses. Therefore, all strikes should be supported, including ones that violate legal restrictions because the strikes would ensure that demands are met.

7. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- **Raising the local NYC wage beyond \$15? What do you think the minimum wage should be?**

Yes, it should be raised to \$25 as a start, based on inflation and worker productivity measures, although the minimum wage should be adjusted according to the cost of living.

- **City legislation on work schedule stability?**

Yes, workers, especially retail workers and service workers, need to be able to have a set schedule to ensure they are able to focus on other aspects of their life (ex. planning for child care and creating appointments for health care). Additionally, families and caretakers of workers with disabilities deserve access to paid caretaker leave.

- **City legislation to require paid vacation for all workers?** Yes.
- **Banning unpaid internships (including in your City Council office).**

Yes. Unpaid internships exclude folks from working-class backgrounds from entering into government and the political pipeline.

- **The right of City Council staff to unionize?**

Yes. I am a member of the first cohort of unionized City Council staffers.

- **Card check neutrality?**

Yes, because card check places direct power on workers while employers remain neutral, thus forgoing anti-union ploys and protracted delays in unionization efforts. Workers still need to be organized in the workplace to unionize.

H. Decarceration

1. What is your view on the role of police in New York City public schools?

Policing in schools is a racist practice that creates an illusion of safety for white families, and reinforces the school-to-prison pipeline for Black and brown New Yorkers. As a Council Member, I will work to remove police from New York City public schools, from K-12 to the CUNY system.

2. What steps would you support taking to end the “school-to-prison pipeline”?

Removing cops from schools, hiring racially conscious guidance counselors, removing exclusionary disciplinary policies (expulsions, suspensions), removing metal detectors from schools, barring ICE from entering schools, hiring more teachers and administrators of color, and supporting culturally responsive pedagogy.

3. Do you support reducing the NYPD budget? If so, by how much? If not, why?

Yes, I support reducing the NYPD's budget entirely, and to start, a reduction by at least half. During the #DefundNYPD campaign, I signed on to Manhattan District Attorney candidate Janos Marton's letter committing to slash \$1B from the budget, advocating for the removal of metal detectors from our schools, and repealing 50a & advocating for an end to Qualified Immunity for perpetrators of police brutality. The ultimate goal is abolition.

4. Would you support a hiring freeze and reductions in the NYPD force? Yes.

5. Do you see an armed police force as a primary or a necessary institution to foster public safety? If not, what concrete policies or programs would you like to see as an alternative? How would you hope to begin moving towards them?

No, police do not keep New Yorkers safe and the NYPD is one of the most violent institutions within the city. My vision for community safety includes: training teachers in transformative

justice and de-escalation, working with religious institutions to build capacity within communities to deal with hate crimes, funding non-profits with experience in transformative justice work, and funding community-based drug treatment programs.

6. Do you support shifting most or all of the police budget to other purposes or agencies?
Yes.

- **Would you support shifting noise complaints, mental health crises, and most other conflict handling currently in NYPD's purview to trained social workers without weapons?** Yes.
- **Do you support returning traffic enforcement to the Department of Transit?**

Yes, however, traffic enforcement should not be another form of policing. Traffic infractions have been used as ways to overpolice the community, especially Black and Brown folks.

- **In general, will you commit to reforms that decrease the funding and size of the NYPD, rather than reforms that increase its size and funding (even in the form of trainings, body cameras, etc.?)** Yes.
 - **Do you support a “duty to intervene” law, to require police to intervene if they see another officer harming or risking a member of the public, with a failure to intervene a fireable offense?** Yes.
 - **Would you support mandating that all NYPD misconduct settlements are paid for out of the agency’s existing or following year’s budget or through offending officers’ pensions, rather than paid by the ?** Yes.
 - **Do you support attrition of NYPD through aggressive investigation and firings of officers found to have participated in unprovoked brutality in the ongoing protests?**
Yes.
 - **Would you support making covering name and badge number during any civilian interaction a fireable offense?** Yes.
- 7. Do you consider yourself a prison abolitionist? If so, how will that affect how you legislate in the Council?**

Yes, I am a prison abolitionist. I was also the first and only candidate in my race to support the No New Jails plan and worked closely with various abolitionist organizations in my district, including Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM). As a prison abolitionist, my job is to actively oppose any efforts to deepen the prison-industrial complex in New York City, while also envisioning a city where safety is not defined by caging and disenfranchising people and is instead based on ensuring all New Yorkers have food, housing, and access to an anti-racist education system.

8. Should NYC build borough-based jails to compensate for the closure of Rikers? If not, what should be done?

No, there should be no new jails in New York City, period. A more effective decarceration plan would include ending policing, expanding transformative justice practices, and investing in low-income housing and anti-racist housing programs.

9. What role should police play in regard to the homeless?

None. Police should not play any role with the homeless. Those who are displaced should receive assistance from social workers and community-based organizations who can ensure that they have access to safe, permanent housing. Policing individuals who have been forced into homelessness by classist and racist systems is unconscionable.

10. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Not building any new jails, prisons, or detention centers in New York City? Yes.
- Significantly reducing the number of people in NYC jails and prisons (beyond the criminal justice reforms already passed)? Yes.
- Creating a city bail voucher program to ensure that no one is held in a city jail for lack of funds (the proposal is outlined on pg. 14 of [No New Jails policy packet](#))? Bail should be banned.
- Ending or dramatically curtailing the practice of cash bail entirely? Yes.
- A ban on the use of facial recognition software by law enforcement agencies? Yes.
- A ban on partnerships and data sharing with private surveillance companies and tools, such as Amazon Ring? Yes.
- A ban on the use of predictive policing algorithms? Yes.
- An elected and empowered Civilian Complaint Review Board? Yes.
 - i. Can we achieve police accountability through the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If so, how? If not, how can we hold police accountable?

Police accountability is not feasible because policing is racist and inherently violent. Although the CCRB may have some say in holding the police accountable, we have seen that even with the existence of a CCRB, police still continue to engage in violent acts (ex. response to Black Lives Matter protests and violence against protestors, the destruction of Abolition Park, etc.). Truthfully, the only way we can hold police accountable is to start defunding the police, to weaken their political power in the City, and to eventually abolish the police as a whole.

- Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a platform for decarceration and community safety and work to implement those goals while in office?

I am open to working with NYC-DSA on such a platform.

I. Socialist Feminism

1. Are you a feminist?

Yes. I am a co-founding member of the Bangladeshi Feminist Collective, a closed space that serves as a healing, thinking, and resting political home for NYC-based womxn-identified Bangladeshi feminist organizers and activists. I was a Women's and Gender Studies major at Brooklyn College, and all of my organizing advocacy and professional work has focused on intersectional feminism that centers around BIPOC folks, folks from working class backgrounds, and immigrant folks.

2. What does feminism mean to you?

Feminism must be intersectional and deliberately invested in building multiracial coalitions. It must include looking at gender in a racial justice lens, a sexual orientation lens, an (dis)abilities lens, etc. In addition, I believe in feminism that focuses on centering the voices of BIPOC womxn, femmes, and gender non-conforming folks.

Fighting the structural systems of capitalist and patriarchal power is feminist. Navigating NYC politics, a space that isn't inherently feminist or rooted in feminist organizing values, means I bring feminism to the thick of my work.

I identify as a *Bangladeshi feminist* because of the exclusion felt within broader Asian and South Asian movement spaces. I find my embodying of Bangladeshi history and heritage as a feminist practice of self and community preservation. At the Bangladeshi Feminist Collective, we recognize a need to reframe Bangladeshi identity as a feminist response to Bangladesh's liberation history which rests on genocide, widespread gender-based violence, and working class migration to the US (and particularly, NYC), and a movement to preserve the Bangla language and culture. The legacies of this radical history are often erased or marginalized in broader and contemporary academic and movement spaces in America. The gendered aspects of this history are often erased in nationalist tellings in Bangladeshi community, where cis, straight Bangladeshi men dominate the political societies, parties and conversations around liberation.

The fight to dismantle sexist ideologies and patriarchy isn't easy, and tougher when the structural shift requires work at home, within my ethnic community, at institutional levels, and more. Some people are feminist-averse and treat me with indifference. To these people I am a threat even without the feminist cape.

We must shape transnational, grassroots feminist responses in the socio-economic context of post-Rana Plaza garment factory collapse, migration of Bangladeshi womxn as domestic workers, the politics in Bangladesh regarding dissent and free speech, as well as incidents of violence against womxn and queer communities, and xenophobia, Islamophobia, and escalated deportation in the US.

3. What would you do to address high rates of violence against transgender women, particularly trans women of color?

I will support and advocate for all legislation that protects transgender womxn, including urging the State to repeal the “Walking While Trans” law. In terms of constituent services, I will work to create a gender inclusive and intersectional hotline for domestic violence and intimate partner violence survivors in the office. This would serve as a safe space for folks to seek resources without police intervention. I will also work to ensure that all staff are trained social workers or mental health resource experts that are culturally sensitive and gender inclusive to create a safe space to serve transgender constituents. As a City Council Member, I will allocate funding to groups organizing trans womxn and support future legislative demands.

4. What would you do in office to address the problem of sexual harassment and assault against womxn in precarious situations, whether in housing, immigration, or low-wage work, that imperils their livelihood, homes, or presence in this country?

As a part of my campaign, I have an entire [platform dedicated to supporting survivors](#). As a Council Member, I will work to equip survivors of gender-based and intimate partner violence with liberatory tools grounded in their safety and joy, using restorative approaches to dismantle pain and trauma.

I will do this through legal protections such as ensuring that survivors can terminate their lease early without financial concerns or back rent concerns from landlords, the creation of a lock change policy, and expanding protections for domestic violence survivors within the City's current Human Rights Law to ensure that survivors are not discriminated against in housing and employment.

I will also ensure that social workers will be part of the City Council staff, acting as community liaisons to help survivors access resources, creating an anonymous helpline for survivors of violence to confidentially obtain district-specific support, and funding organizations providing mental health care for survivors of violence, as well as funding for individuals to access adequate, trauma-informed counseling through the Survivor Security Fund. I will also work to create a hotline for survivors within the district office to ensure that survivors do not have to rely on the intervention of police.

Additionally, I have advocated for a creation of an undocumented workers' bill of rights, as a part of [my Small Businesses platform](#). The bill of rights will include rights and protections such as protections to prevent employers from cooperating with ICE, prohibiting employers from engaging in any verbal/sexual/physical harassment and discrimination of undocumented employees, and ensuring access to free legal counsel for undocumented workers.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Funding free preschool, childcare and maternity/paternity leave? Yes.
- Ending "religious exemptions" to bans on discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity? Yes.
- Decriminalizing sex work

Yes. I continuously learn from my comrades at Red Canary Song, Asian American Feminist Collective, and DecrimNY.

J. Healthcare Justice

- 1. What are your thoughts on [NYC Care](#), or a similar citywide program, that would expand healthcare coverage to the uninsured? How would you guarantee poor and working-class people have access to comprehensive health care services that are free at the point of care, such as reproductive care, mental health, dental, vision, and primary care?**

Expanding healthcare coverage is personal for me. As a Lupus survivor, I got to know the precarious health insurance industry and care under restrictions because of Medicaid. I support any program that will insure all folks, regardless of insurance and immigration status. I believe that healthcare is a human right and not something that should be profitable. As a Council Member, I will ensure that more funding will go towards programs like NYC Care so that the program survives and is expanded to more New Yorkers. In addition, I will ensure that more funding will go towards health centered community organizations and clinics (ex. free/low cost community based clinics) and will work with City agencies like the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Health & Hospitals to ensure that health resources are available for working class folks and that outreach is done in an accessible and culturally responsive manner.

I will also lead in pushing the City Council to pass a resolution formalizing support for Medicare for All, reaffirming our commitment to help the most vulnerable in our city by supporting U.S. House Resolution 1384 - the Medicare for All Act.

Healthcare is one of the top issues impacting womxn, people of color, immigrants, and working families. I have worked day in and day out to help immigrants in my district access healthcare and better understand their health insurance. These things are already convoluted and complicated as is, and it is even more difficult for communities with limited language access resources.

- 2. How would you guarantee poor and working class people have access to reproductive care?**

The City Council can invest in and fund community based clinics to provide free or low-cost services such as STI/STD testing, condoms, access to birth control. I will advocate for comprehensive sex education in schools that is inclusive and intersectional. I've worked closely with students at MS 442 to provide peer-to-peer workshops (led by the Peer Health Exchange) to destigmatize menstruation, puberty, and consent.

My constituent services team will engage in culturally-informed community outreach to share resources about low cost/free reproductive and sexual health services. In my own community there is much stigma around sex and other sexual health issues. I will bring in experts like Sakhi

for South Asian Women, HEART, Planned Parenthood, Girls for Gender Equity, and Day One NY as needed for workshops and programming.

3. Would you support building safe injection sites? If so, where? How would you expand harm reduction programming in NYC?

Safe injection sites should be placed where the community (focusing on the voices of those who rely on those sites) believes they should be placed. Harm reduction programming should also be run as a joint partnership between City and local grassroots organizations, with more input and governing from the organizations. To expand programming, Council should ensure that budget is sufficient to fund these sites and also community outreach should be expanded.

4. Will you oppose the expansion of policing and incarceration into NYC hospitals, including the currently proposed jail beds? Yes.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why):

- Health care as a human right for all people? Yes.
- Fully-funding public hospitals/community health centers and preventing the closing of any public health care institutions? Yes.
- New Yorkers' rights to reproductive health care, including abortion without restriction and on demand? Yes.

K. Education

1. Would you support New York City and State fulfilling the promise of the Campaign For Fiscal Equity by increasing funding to public schools by \$4 billion, most of which is owed to districts with high percentages of Black, Brown and low-income students? Yes.

2. What is your stance on uneven PTA fundraising across schools? How would you address this problem?

Under-regulated PTA fundraising allows for wealthier schools to spend disproportionately on technology, arts and music programs, extracurricular activities, field trips, and athletics throughout the country. This is particularly relevant in school districts with a history of socioeconomic segregation, like School District 15. There are countless fundraising models that school districts explore to make PTA fundraising equitable. As a district, we need to engage in community-based planning practices, and center participatory efforts to determine best practices on a district and school-wide basis, including public, private, and charter schools. This problem could be addressed through increased monitoring and accountability protocols, through fundraising caps, allocating money to a district monetary pool, rather than an individual school pool, and/or partnering more affluent schools with less affluent schools.

3. Do you support Mayoral control of City schools? If so, why? If not, what alternative do you propose?

Yes, I support an amended version of Mayoral control of NYC DOE — one that allows the Council to have a clearer role in overseeing the City's public schools. Our current political dance requiring continuous extensions for Mayoral control of NYC DOE schools has been leveraged by members of the legislature to pass backroom deals to support charter expansion, at the expense of public education. While I support Mayoral control of schools, I also believe the Council should be a stronger check on the Mayor's control of NYC DOE, including by increasing budget and policy and oversight for the Council, reducing Mayoral control of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), and fixing the PEP's terms.

4. What is your position on the City's high school admissions procedures?

Black and Latinx teens make up almost 70% of high schoolers in NYC, but only 10% of spots at specialized high schools. Admissions screens are discriminatory, perpetuating and exacerbating segregation through focusing on arbitrary and classist metrics like tardiness, which alone weeds out over 40% of Black students and almost 40% of Latinx students. Other screens, like absences, standardized test scores, and ELA scores, largely disadvantage low-income students, students of color, and students who speak English as a second language.

5. How will you fight to desegregate the City's school system?

Quality education should be close to home, and rooted in community. Rather than focusing efforts onto piloting different combinations of screens and lotteries, we should address the systemic inequities throughout our public school system. Redistricting, instituting culturally responsive pedagogy, retaining and maintaining teachers of color, and capping PTA fundraising or distributing unequal fundraising, are all tangible steps the Council can take to desegregate the City's K-12 system.

6. Do you support integrating NYC public schools based on race and socioeconomic status?

Yes, and I support the D15 Integration plan, which outlines ways to provide equal access to resources for all. At the same time, efforts to integrate schools should not come at the expense of Afrocentric or culturally responsive education that has existed in NYC for decades as a response to white supremacist, colonial curriculum.

- **Toward this end, do you support the elimination of academic screening, which entrenches educational stratification in NYC by sorting students largely according to their education privileges? Yes.** Screens only disadvantage low income families, and result in a failure of allocating resources to local schools.

7. Should "School Resource Officers" (i.e. cops in schools) exist? Absolutely not!

Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- **Making CUNY tuition free?**

Yes. CUNY students have long fought for a free and accessible higher education system. As a Council Member, I will work with CUNY student advocates, and colleagues in the State Legislature to support a free public higher education system by taxing New York's ultra-wealthy. At the City level, we have more control over CUNY's community colleges, and can work to address daily struggles facing CUNY students, including homelessness, hunger, and childcare needs of CUNY's student parents.

- **Funding CUNY to meet adjunct's demand of \$7,000 per course (they are currently paid poverty wages)? Yes.**
- **A ban on local funding (including tax advantages on income and property) for universities that allow admissions based on "legacy" and similar criteria? Yes.**
- **Limits on the expansion of charter schools in the City? Yes.**
- **Proper access to secular education for Yeshiva students? Yes.**
- **Expanding the City's 3K program to all parts of the City? Yes.**
- **A citywide prohibition on exclusionary school discipline (i.e. suspensions and expulsions)?**

Yes. Exclusionary discipline is a carceral approach to education. Transformative justice prioritizes a student's socio-emotional wellbeing and cognitive development, and allows students to learn.

- **Removing screenings for schools and ensuring minimum academic diversity thresholds? Yes.**
- **Enacting a comprehensive redistricting of public schools to ensure racial integration? Yes.**
- **Fighting for the funding owed to NYC public schools by New York State? Yes.**
- **Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist education platform? Yes!**

L. Economic Justice

1. **Due to lack of affordable options many households in New York City do not have internet access. What should the City be doing to guarantee that all residents have low-cost, high-speed internet access, without increasing the market dominance and consolidation of a handful of internet service providers?**

Community WiFi via mesh networks in Red Hook have demonstrated that decentralized, community-led models can provide reliable, more affordable WiFi. The Council must support the expansion of community WiFi by funding training for digital stewards, and participation in incentive programs to stabilize a community outreach program and local organizing strategy.

2. **Would you support increased transparency for all economic development deals entered into by the City, including:**
 - **Banning non-disclosure agreements in economic development negotiations? Yes.**

- Implementing a “database of deals” to track the economic development budget, and company-specific reporting on relevant data re. jobs created and other promised returns on public investment? Yes.
 - Better delimitation of the geographic areas eligible for incentives? Yes.
- 3. Do you support the following: (For any you don’t support, please explain why)**
- Progressively raising the City’s income tax for higher tax brackets? Absolutely!
 - Common ownership of natural resources of New York State and any technologies or innovations developed with public funding as well as expansion of employee stock ownership plans, co-determination, community ownership, municipalization, and nationalization? Yes.
 - New York City home rule to establish new taxes for local revenue generation? Yes.
 - A cap on total subsidies and tax breaks corporations can receive from the City? Yes.
- 4. How can City Council help close the racial wealth gap in New York City? How can City Council help create more and better jobs for people of color?**

Many of the priorities of my campaign can be seen as tools to close the racial wealth gap including: defunding and abolishing NYPD; investing in more stable and permanent housing; ending the schools-to-prison pipeline in New York; desegregating public schools; and expanding universal healthcare for NYC residents. Supporting state-level efforts to tax New York’s ultra-wealthy would also address the white supremacist nature of wealth and resource hoarding in New York. Meanwhile, New York can also create more and better jobs for people of color including: prioritizing local City jobs for local neighborhood residents; removing barriers to public service including degree requirements; investing in MWBE programs to ensure more BIPOC small businesses stay in the city; expanding SYEP and other youth job training programs; fully funding CUNY and strengthening work-based learning.

- 5. Do you support efforts to found a public bank for the city that would prioritize neighborhood-led development and investments that benefit poor and working class New Yorkers?**

Yes, a public bank would allow more folks to have savings and also improve their credit without predatory practices of corporate banks.

- 6. Do you support postal banking -- the provision of low-cost, consumer-driven financial services via the Postal Service? Yes.**

M. Immigrant Justice

- 1. What existing connections do you have with immigrant-led groups?**

I am the daughter of immigrants, I organized at CAAAV, I was the Bangladeshi Community Liaison for Council Member Brad Lander, and I am a lifelong immigrant advocate. I have a deep organizing history of working with various immigrant justice groups in various movement and organizing spaces like the Arab American Family Support Center, Sakhi for South Asian Women, DRUM, Shetu, Make the Road, New York Immigration Coalition, Women for Afghan Women, Arab American Association of NY, Muslim Community Network, Sanctuary for Families, and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice.

- **Are there specific immigrant communities in your district whose needs you plan to address in office? What are key issues for these communities?**

There are large Bangladeshi and Mexican immigrant populations in Kensington, which are under-resourced and rarely prioritized in policy. We also have a small Sudanese refugee community. Key issues include language accessible targeted City services, culturally relevant domestic violence community resources and safety plans, worker protections, affordable housing, and programming for youth.

- **How do you plan to use your office to provide constituent services to immigrants in your district?**

Ensuring that all materials and resources are available in the languages of my constituents, and hosting relevant community workshops and town halls to share information consistently.

2. What is your plan for language access on your campaign?

We often distribute materials in English and Bangla, and engage in thorough outreach to local Bangla media sources. For example, in drafting our educational platform in response to COVID-19 school procedures, we released a survey assessing parent needs in English, Bangla, and Spanish. A true ethic of community based planning and civic participation is rooted in language justice and prioritizing our most marginalized community members.

The premise for radical language justice in our city is simple: no one will be abandoned, no one is left behind in their share of fair and equitable care. Radical language justice is proactive in bringing in more people into our work. And I am explicit about calling it language justice and not language access, because leaving no one behind requires a shift in power and leadership. Our city has lazily rested on making things accessible. And language justice has never been by default. Immigrant communities have had to organize for basic language access. Despite our organizing bringing language access laws and necessary policy changes in this city, we often find rooms with translation equipment with no one to interpret for, we find materials on agency websites that are not disseminated and without an outreach plan.

Language justice is hard - and achieving it requires more than access - it requires building relationships and building trust and it takes years. But I've practiced an effective model during multilingual tenant organizing at CAAAV. We'd host member meetings in four languages - this took intentional planning, volunteer capacity, rehearsals, equipment, and trust. Each section

was led in one of our homeland languages, using English only to pass the message to interpreters.

Language justice requires funding. How many of us have stepped in as interpreters and translated materials because we knew if this material about ICE in our neighborhood exists only in English and in the ethos of the World Wide Web, our communities will get picked up and families will get separated. Language access providers are frontline leaders. I have a [language access plan for the City](#) and have written about the importance of [language justice in movement building](#).

3. What steps do you think are necessary to establish stronger Sanctuary City protections in New York City?

Stronger Sanctuary City protections in NYC include: introducing and passing an Undocumented Workers Bill of Rights at the city-level; ending all cooperation with ICE and resisting its enactment of xenophobic policies; and defunding and abolishing NYPD.

4. What steps do you think are necessary to end Broken Windows and Community policing, which disproportionately targets black and brown working-class people, including many undocumented immigrants, and puts immigrants at immediate risk by virtue of fingerprinting, the data for which is automatically shared with DHS?

Defunding and abolishing the police, and hosting community town halls to discourage community members from bringing carceral institutions into their neighborhoods.

5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Legislation prohibiting the use of City resources, personnel or funds to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law, such as traffic enforcement for ICE vehicles? Yes.
- Legislation extending voting rights in municipal elections to immigrant New Yorkers? Yes.
- Legislation strengthening the enforcement of worker misclassification laws, particularly around contractors, along with funding for a low-wage immigrant worker defense fund? Yes.
- Increased, and permanent funding in the New York City budget for public defense, in both immigration and criminal proceedings? Yes.
- Increased city funding for social services accessible to all residents, regardless of citizenship status, to counteract the impacts of Trump's "public charge rule" and immigrants' exclusion from COVID-19 federal aid? Yes.
- Increased funding and resources for city agencies, hospitals and communities to develop policies and training for staff on know-your-rights information, both for the immigrant populations they serve and for themselves to exercise their rights to prevent ICE access & arrests? Yes.

N. Environmental Justice and Transportation

1. **Do you endorse [DSA's Ecosocialist Green New Deal Guiding Principles](#)?** Yes! This is an issue that is deeply personal to me.
2. **Would you commit to developing an ecosocialist platform for your campaign in close consultation with NYC-DSA's Ecosocialist Working Group and its allies?**

We are committed to developing an ecosocialist platform with NYC-DSA's Ecosocialist Working Group and its allies. Do also check out my environmental justice platform (we'll release it soon!) which is ecosocialist in nature, in that our approach to climate change is ecofeminist, redistributive, and based in an ethic of community control.

3. **Will you advance the goal of a publicly owned, democratically controlled energy system for New York in office?** Yes! See our upcoming public utility platform for more.
4. **Will you support unionization for all new green jobs and a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers, protecting them by providing them with job transition programs, retraining and income security?** Yes, specifically through the creation of Green Collar Jobs, which are a source of community development, skills training, and needed infrastructural reform.
5. **Do you support new development in zone 1 and 2 emergency evacuation zone floodplains? Explain why or why not?**

With projects like the East Side Coastal Resiliency project, there is a need for thoughtful resiliency development and flooding protections, but not development that erodes access to public space or imbues neighborhoods with constant construction and police presence.

All new development must be analyzed through a lens of public and community benefits. Depth of affordability and who manages the space are paramount - but equally important are the infrastructure investments the developer will make to increase the resiliency of our coasts to better protect our collective future, on-site and in our surrounding neighborhoods. Flood walls, raising the bulkheads, ground-floor green infrastructure and open space that can flood at high tide - and these spaces must be public and accessible, not private. These are all investments we must demand from private property owners and the City, State and Federal Government to responsibly mitigate the impacts of climate change and work towards a vision of climate justice for our city. These developments must use green energy – they must create high-quality high-paying jobs for our most vulnerable residents, they must provide deeply affordable

housing, they must make accessibility improvements on our streetscapes, and improve public transit. These are the things I will fight for on each and every land use application that comes my way. If a development in a floodplain fails to sufficiently protect and increase the resiliency of our communities, I will oppose it.

6. What is your stance on powering NYC with Canadian hydropower?

While I support hydropower and other sources of alternative energy, we support the First Nations activists who have fought against Canadian hydropower expansion into and through indigenous territories.

- 7. What is your stance on City control of the subways?** I support City control of the subways.
- 8. Do you support fully funding the MTA capital plan and reducing or eliminating fares? What role do you believe the City Council can have in achieving this?**

I support fully funding the MTA capital plan, with the caveat of not investing in or funding police facilities in the plan. There is no reason to prosecute or criminalize turnstile jumpers because policing fair evasion disproportionately hurts Black and brown & low-income communities. Public transportation should be free for all. This will also decrease the operating costs of the subway system. City control of the subways will help reduce and eliminate fares.

9. What are your primary modes of transportation? How will you commute to work at the council?

I ride the subway and the bus. I'm also a part of a womxn of color/GNC bike collective rooted in getting more womxn of color to occupy public space in Brooklyn. Being disabled does limit how I can be active on my bike, but when I can, I bike with the collective or around my own neighborhood. I also have a regular kick scooter that I ride in my neighborhood.

10. How do you plan to achieve the City's goals of zero waste by 2030 when the city has slashed funding for organics collection?

“Zero Waste” means different things to different people, but ultimately, corporate consumption and individual consumption must decrease. A lot of this can be achieved through thoughtful educational programming, but ultimately, voluntary recycling and composting programs are classist so there has to be a clearer incentive program for involvement that includes monetary compensation for time and effort spent.

RE: organics, there needs to be more thorough research into why the organics collection program was slashed – was there a lack of neighborhood participation? Under non-COVID-19 circumstances, would organics collection have continued? Was lack of participation because of

non-thorough education or because organics build up or residential composting in homes is burdensome and unsanitary? What would an incentive structure or program look like for organic recycling? Could there be better collaboration between individual homes, restaurants, and organic farms? Why isn't proper waste collection a budgetary priority? Would organics collection have been more successful in some boroughs rather than others? How much was organics collections promoted in neighborhood meetings?

I am a strong supporter of banning single-use plastic bags to reduce plastic pollution.

11. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- **Decarbonizing the power grid? Yes.**
- **City funding for community land trusts and programs modeled after the Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC)?**

YES! As a Council Member, I will work to allocate parts of my capital budget for technical support for CLTs, particularly to reach out to low-income families of color, provide funding for hosting webinars or workshops to provide references, and work to prevent the transfer of private land to developers. I will also be careful to not undermine the history and spirit of community organizing underlying CLTs through government and municipal involvement.

- **Decreasing carbon footprints of existing buildings through retrofits, prioritizing and fully funding NYCHA**

YES! Council can include incentives for retrofitting green roofs and decreasing carbon footprints through strengthening the Climate Mobilization Act, and expanding retrofits for community centers to provide cooling benefits to community centers.

- **Centering and working with front-line, working-class communities of color while developing and implementing green infrastructure?**

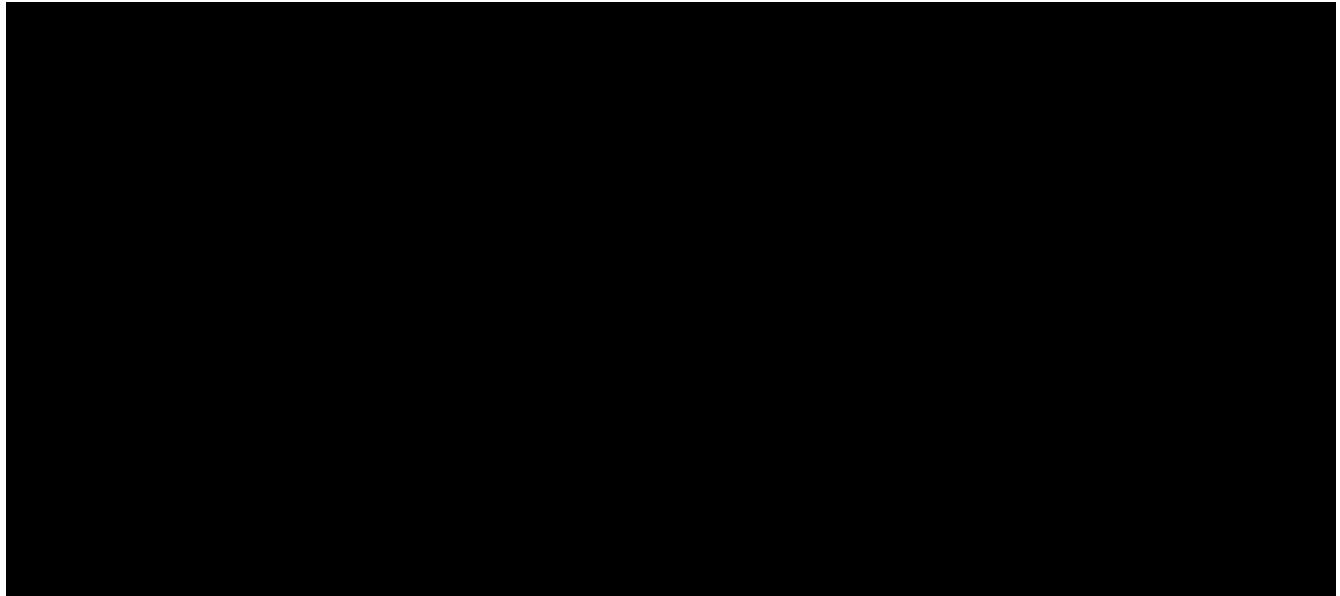
YES! Climate change activists worry that COVID-19 recovery packages will unintentionally bolster the fossil fuel industry so new platforms for employment should prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation. Green Collar Jobs are dedicated to protecting the environment while also providing low-income community members with a pathway to a higher, more sustainable income. City Council members can and should be pivotal in managing and fostering a Green Collar Jobs initiative – through pushing for public funding by designating Green Collar Jobs as either discretionary funds or infrastructural projects, or through even endorsing community based programs that are already doing this work through both accreditation and monetary contributions.

- **Stopping all proposed new fossil fuel infrastructure, as well as drawing down all existing fossil fuel infrastructure in the next decade? Yes!**
- **Divesting City pension funds from all fossil fuel industries? Yes!**
- **Framing low-carbon public transit as a right and making the subway, buses, and transportation system free in the city? Yes!**

- Increasing green, transit-oriented infrastructure, such as bike lanes and bus lanes, even if at the expense of parking and extra lanes for private motorists?? Yes!
- Limiting the use of rideshare programs that flout worker rights and city regulations Yes.
- Eliminating parking placards Yes.
- Legalizing e-bikes and e-scooters Yes. This is an issue that directly impacts the residents of my community.
- Reducing the city vehicle fleet by at least 25%, with a special focus on NYPD's fleet. Yes.
- Renewable Rikers Yes.
 - i. How should we handle the power aspect of the proposed plan? Who should own the power assets proposed? The power assets proposed under Renewable Rikers should be publicly owned.
 - ii. If the proposed study finds that there is too much needed extra capacity for the proposed Rikers wastewater treatment plant to replace other plants, do you support building one anyway? If not, what do you propose we do to eliminate our city's CSO problem? Yes, and in tandem, to fully eliminate our city's CSO problem, we will promote green retrofittings, mandate zonings that take a lens of environmental impact, and discourage density in Superfill areas.
- Centering transit justice as an equity, racial justice and social justice issue and adopting a "15-Minute City" plan for all New Yorkers Yes.
- Investing in public parks, green spaces, and community gardens and ending their privatization. YES.
- Building climate resilience measures such as hardened, raised architecture or expansion of wetlands, shores, and natural infrastructure around waterfronts and vulnerable areas. Yes.
- Ensure waterfronts are prioritized for use as accessible public spaces and floodwater catchments, rather than development parcels for private real estate Yes. This is particularly important in my district, given development in Gowanus.
- Take community input and ecosystem preservation into account to democratically plan a managed retreat from coastlines. Yes.
- Ensure disaster relief efforts prioritize the most vulnerable communities, are not means tested, and do not require citizenship checks. Yes.
- Having a municipally owned commercial waste collection system. YES!
- Reducing food waste and expanding existing public food programs and municipal food purchasing and ensuring purchases are from farms that protect farmworkers rights and utilize regenerative and sustainable practices, including in urban farms. Yes.
- Supporting publicly or municipally owned broadband and guaranteeing internet access to all. Yes.
- Eliminating the jaywalking violation (Title 34, Section 4-04) Yes.

- **Restoring parking and traffic enforcement to the NYC DOT from the NYPD** Yes, if the NYC DOT takes a non-carceral approach, and does not push infractors to the NYPD.

O. Foreign Policy



2. Do you support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement? If not, why?

Yes, I support BDS and the boycotting of goods originating from illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. I oppose the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories (a position also in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention; the United Nations Human Rights Commission; and the European Union) and the deplorable treatment of Palestinians by the current right-wing administration governing Israel.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 39

SUMMARY

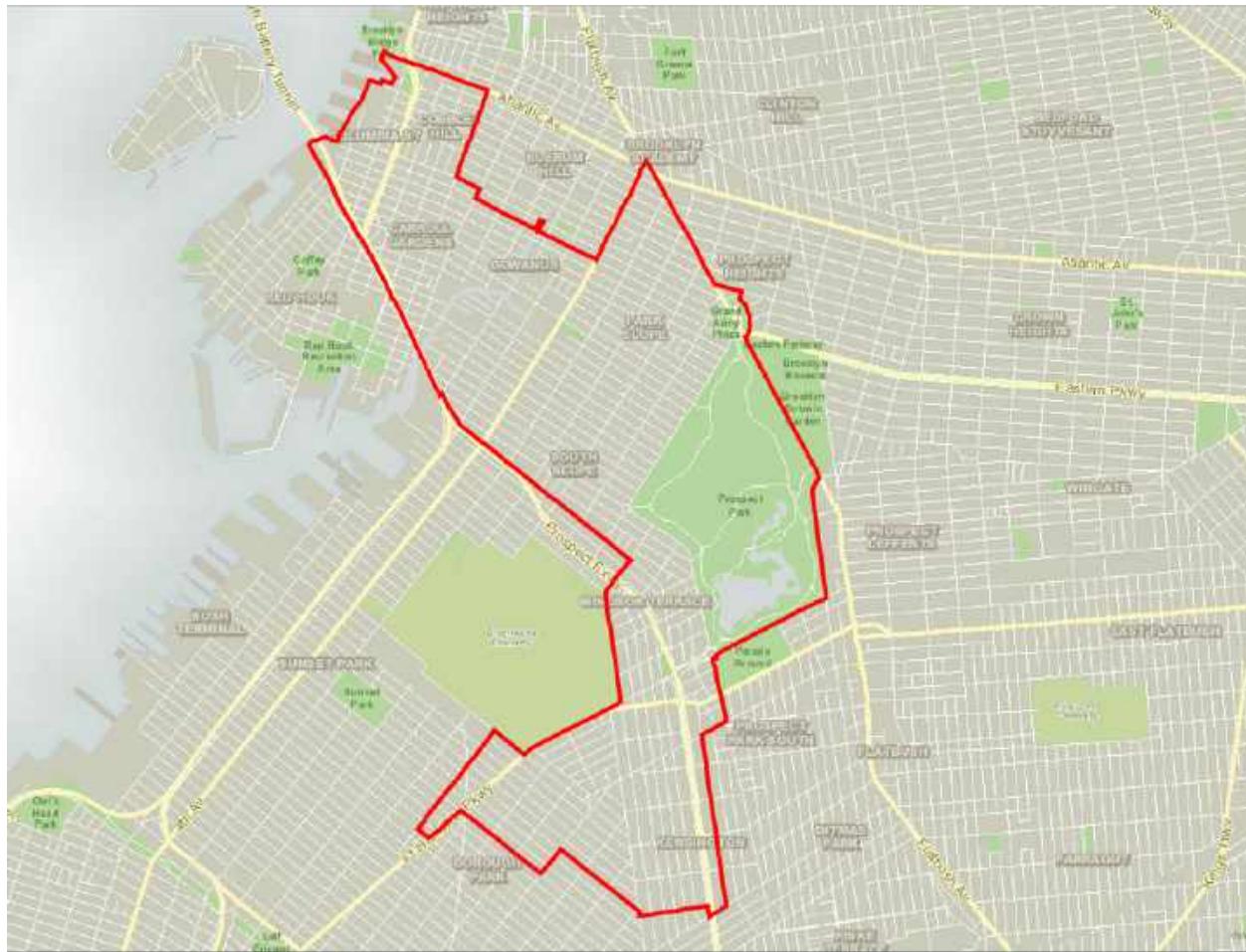
2020 summary: New York City Council District 39 encompasses Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Columbia Waterfront, Gowanus, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, and Borough Park. Demographically, the district features an above-average percentage of 30 - 44 year olds, is mostly white (65%), Most of the district is white, Bachelor's degree or higher educated (over 63%, NYC average is 31%), less than average amount of renters (61% vs. city-wide average 66), and relatively wealthy (median household income is \$101,427, NYC average is \$60,000).

Politically, this district is where Mayor Bill de Blasio became an elected official, owns two homes (in Park Slope) and notoriously frequents the local YMCA. The Council District mainly overlaps with Assembly Districts 52 (Jo Anne Simon) and 44 (Bobby Carroll), as well as small portions of 51 (Marcela Mitaynes won the primary), 42 (Rodneyse Bichotte), and 48 (Simcha Eichenstein), as well as State Senate District 21 (Kevin S. Parker). There are portions of the district that do overlap with 25 (Jabari Brisport won the primary) and 20 (Zellnor Myrie).

The district is known to be progressive. New York City Council Member Brad Lander, and Comptroller candidate, is one of the most progressive members of the council and represents the district. *Politico* featured the district's Park Slope Food Coop in their 2018 article "[My 72-Hour Safari in Clinton Country](#)". While Bernie Sanders struggled in 2016, Cynthia Nixon/Jumaane Williams/Zephyr Teachout all received over 60% of the vote (Jumaane over 70%). The district has six candidates currently running. DSA has two members in the district running, Brandon West and Patrick Johnson; UFT liaison Brigit Rein has consolidated a lot of city political establishment support and has received contributions from lobbyists; Shahana Hanif, a staffer of CM Lander, has received impressive support from the district; Jennifer DeLuca hasn't amassed significant support so far and is running on a small business-friendly platform.

This race has good potential for DSA engagement. District 39 is a progressive district, and among Brooklyn CC Districts it has the 4th highest number of DSA members (573). 2 CC candidates are members of DSA, and another candidate (Hanif) is largely aligned with DSA's politics. The incumbent (Lander) has said he will not make an endorsement in the race, which could make a DSA endorsement more impactful.

District Map



BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The District

Representation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Council

Current Incumbent: Brad Lander

Term Limit Year: 2021

Demographics

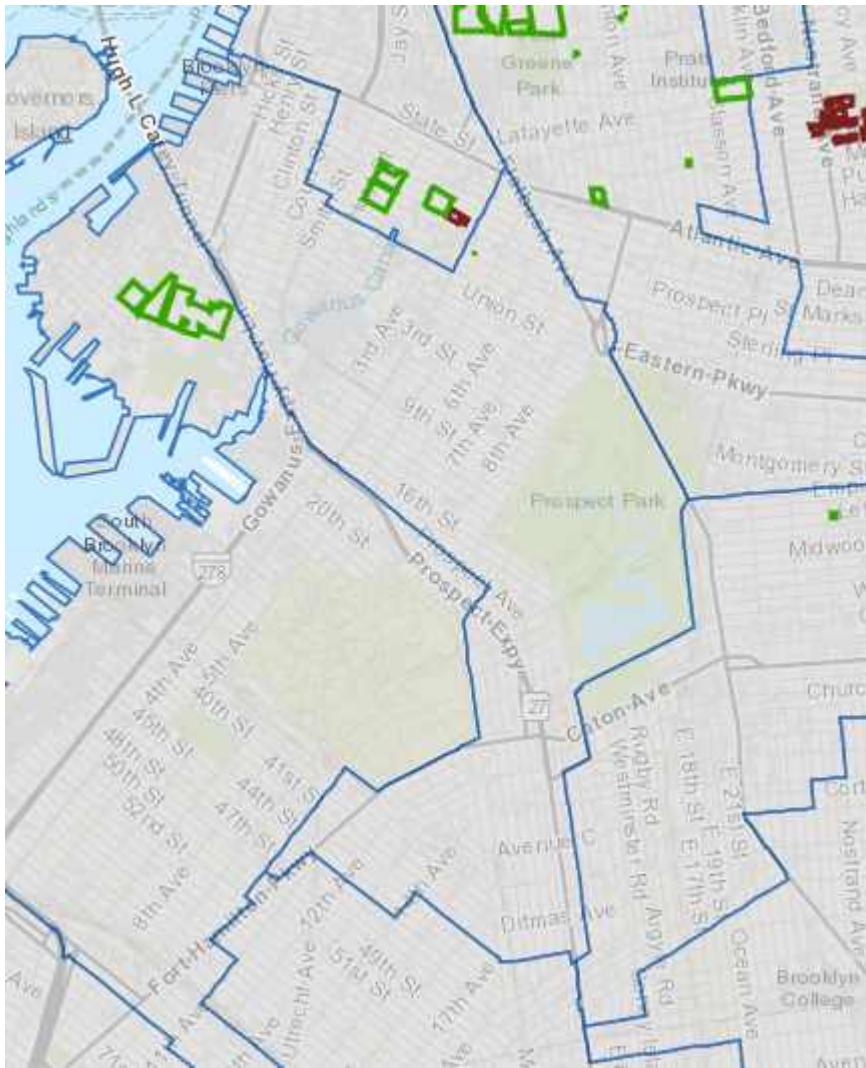
Housing

Rent Stabilized Units

12350

NYCHA Developments

No NYCHA Developments in District 39



News

Add links to Google News with the search terms for the representatives, NYCHA developments and non-profits in the district.

<https://boundaries.beta.nyc/>

Representatives

City Council

[Brad Lander](#)

NYS Assembly

Assemblymembers of vast majority of district:

52: [Jo Anne Simon](#)

44: [Bobby Carroll](#)

Assemblymembers of very small pockets (+/- 3 blocks)

42: [Rodneyese Bichotte](#)

48: [Simcha Eichenstein](#)

51: [Marcela Mitaynes](#)

NYS Senate

State Senators of vast majority of district:

21: [Kevin Parker](#)

State Senators of small pockets of district:

17: [Simcha Felder](#)

20: [Zellnor Myrie](#)

25: [Jabari Brisport](#)

26: [Brian Kavanagh](#)

US House of Representatives

7: [Nydia Velazquez](#)

9: [Yvette Clarke](#)

10: [Jerrold L. Nadler](#)

NYCHA

None

Non-Profits

Voter Information

- DSA Membership:

573 (4th most in Brooklyn)

- Registered Voters

As of February 21,2020:

Total: 122,425

Active: 103,967

Inactive: 18,458

Democrat: 89,723

- Voter Turnout

2016 Presidential Primary:

Total District Count: 35,103

Turnout rate: 39%

2018 Governor Primary:

Total District Count: 34,086

Turnout rate: 38%

2018 Lt. Governor Primary:

Total District Count: 32,092

Turnout rate: 36%

2018 Attorney General Primary:

Total District Count: 33,662

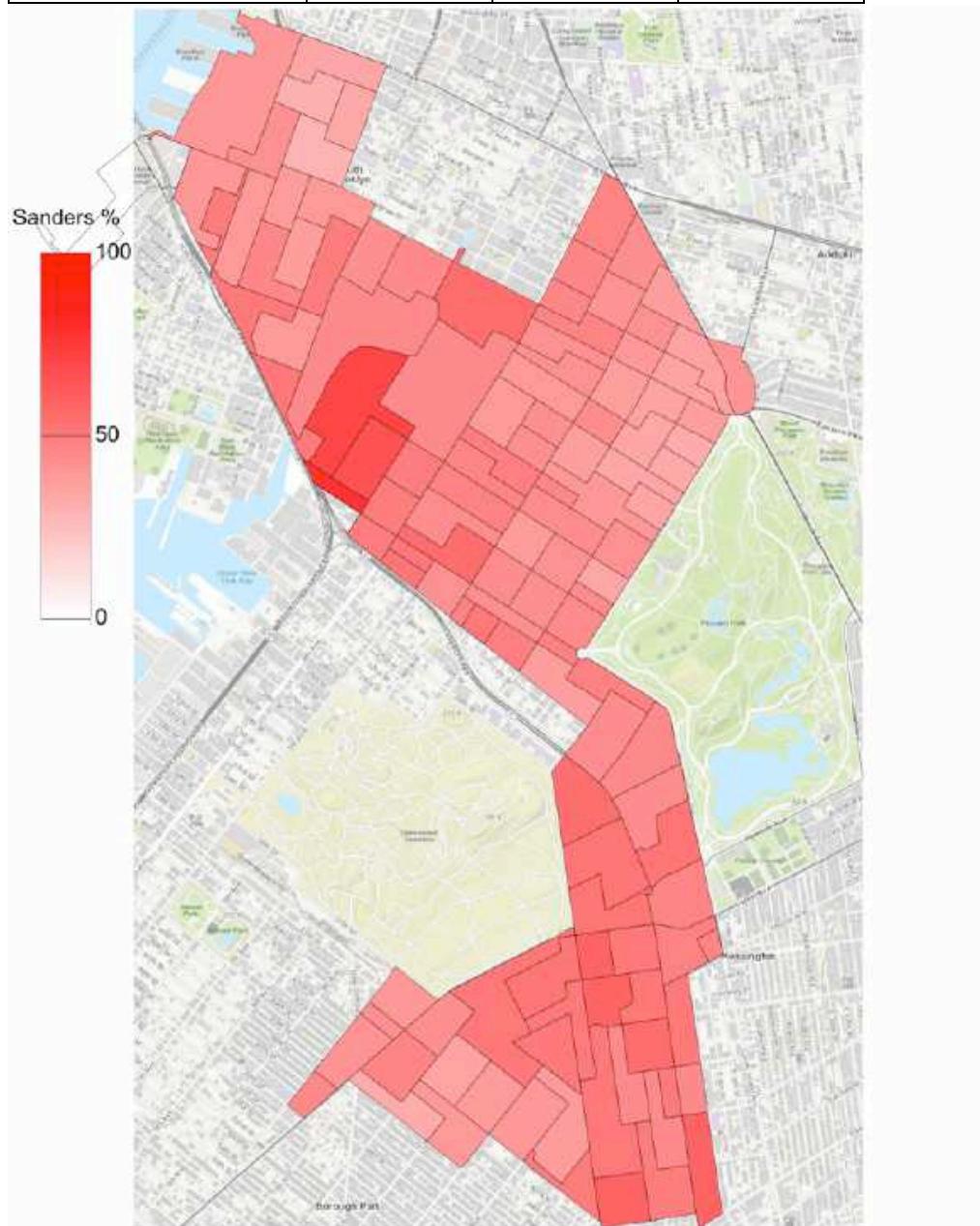
Turnout rate: 38%

2017 & 2013: Brad Lander did not run in a competitive primary or general election.

Election Results (Progressive Candidates)

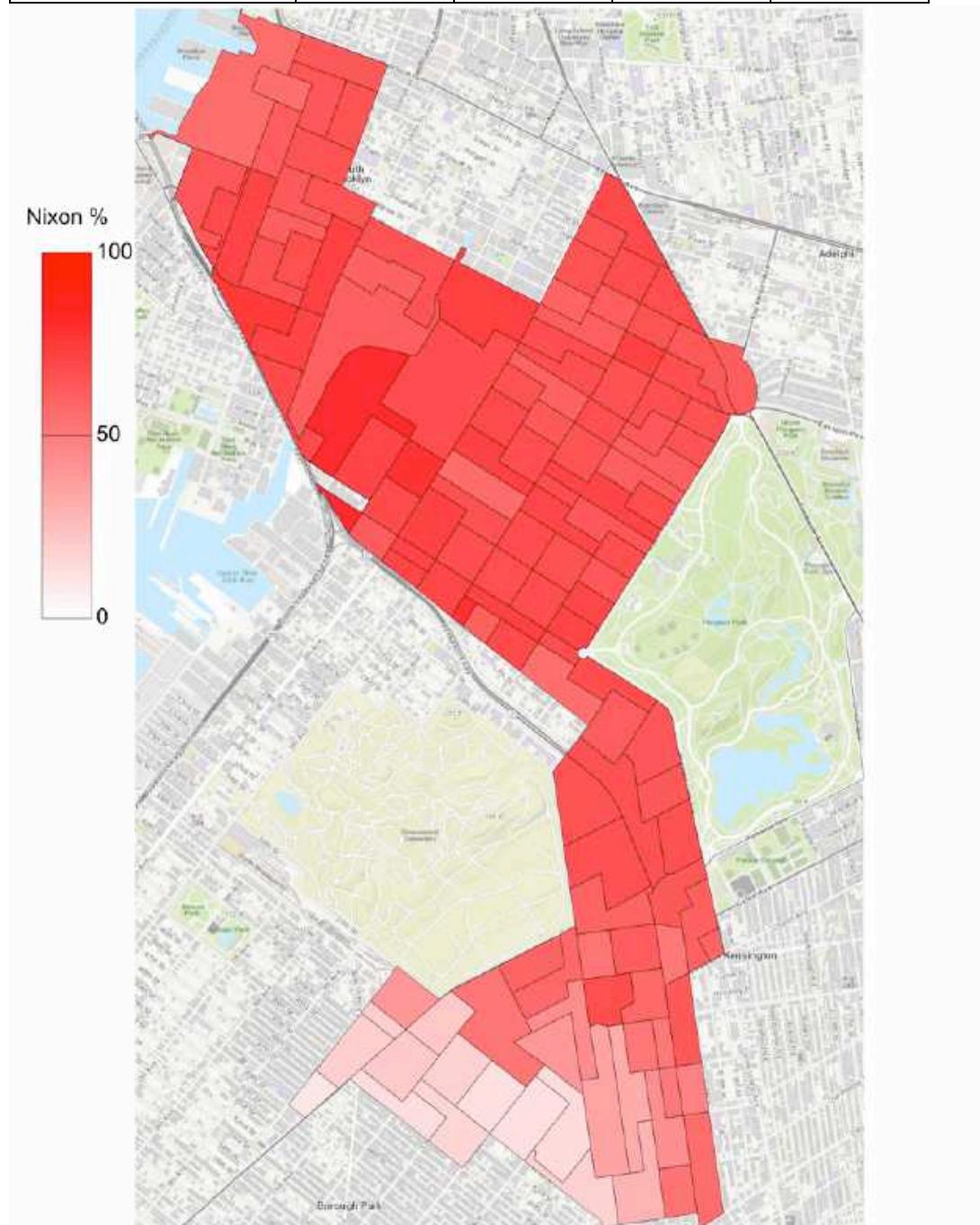
Presidential Primary 2016

	Sanders	Clinton	Total
District count	15,198	19,905	35,103
District %	43.3%	56.7%	100.0%
Kings County count	123,876	183,665	307,541
Kings County %	40.3%	59.7%	100.0%



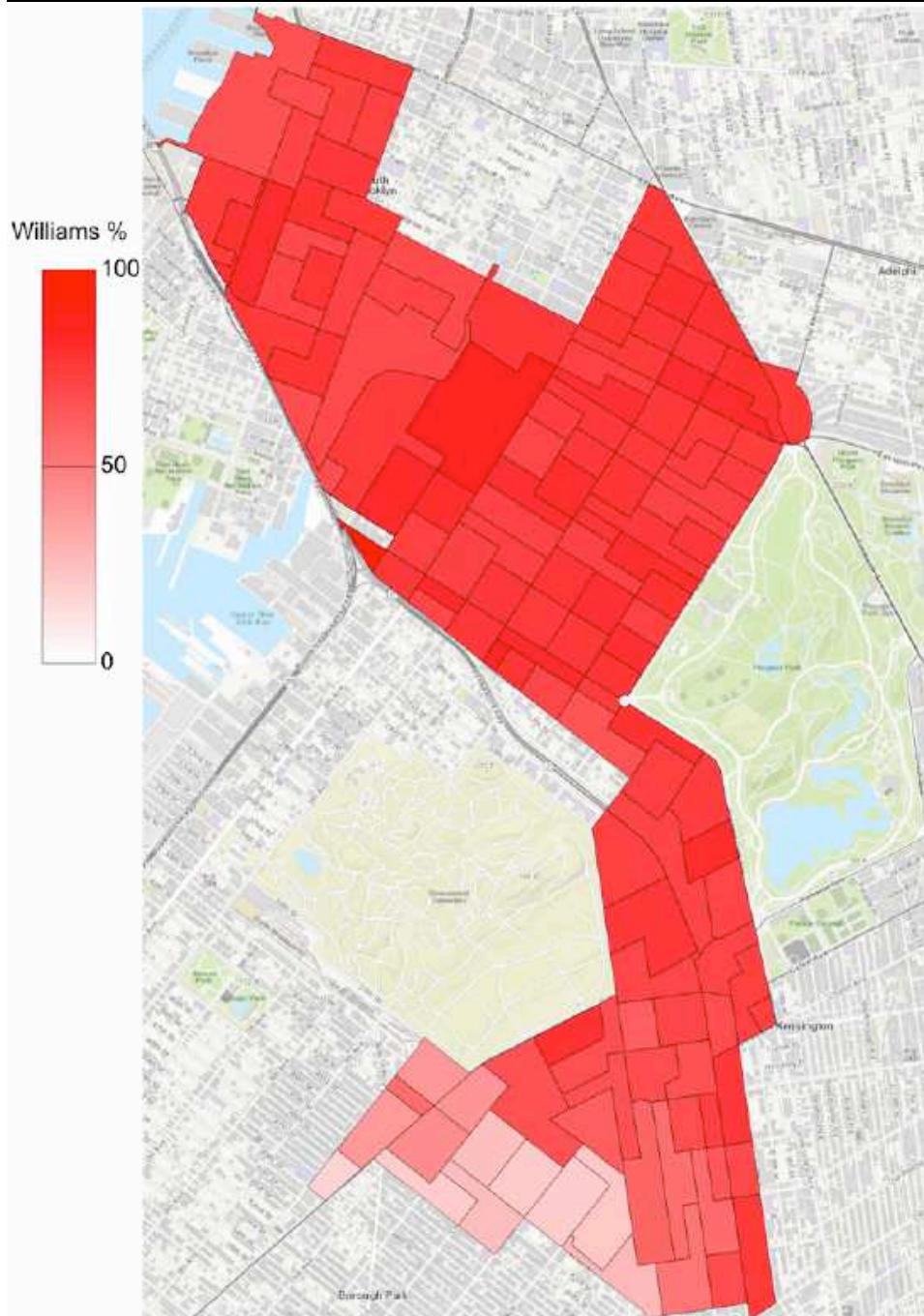
Governor Primary 2018

	Nixon	Cuomo	Write-in	Total
District count	21,284	12,637	165	34,086
District %	62.4%	37.1%	0.5%	100.0%
Kings County count	116,564	187,831	979	305,374
Kings County %	38.2%	61.5%	0.3%	100.0%



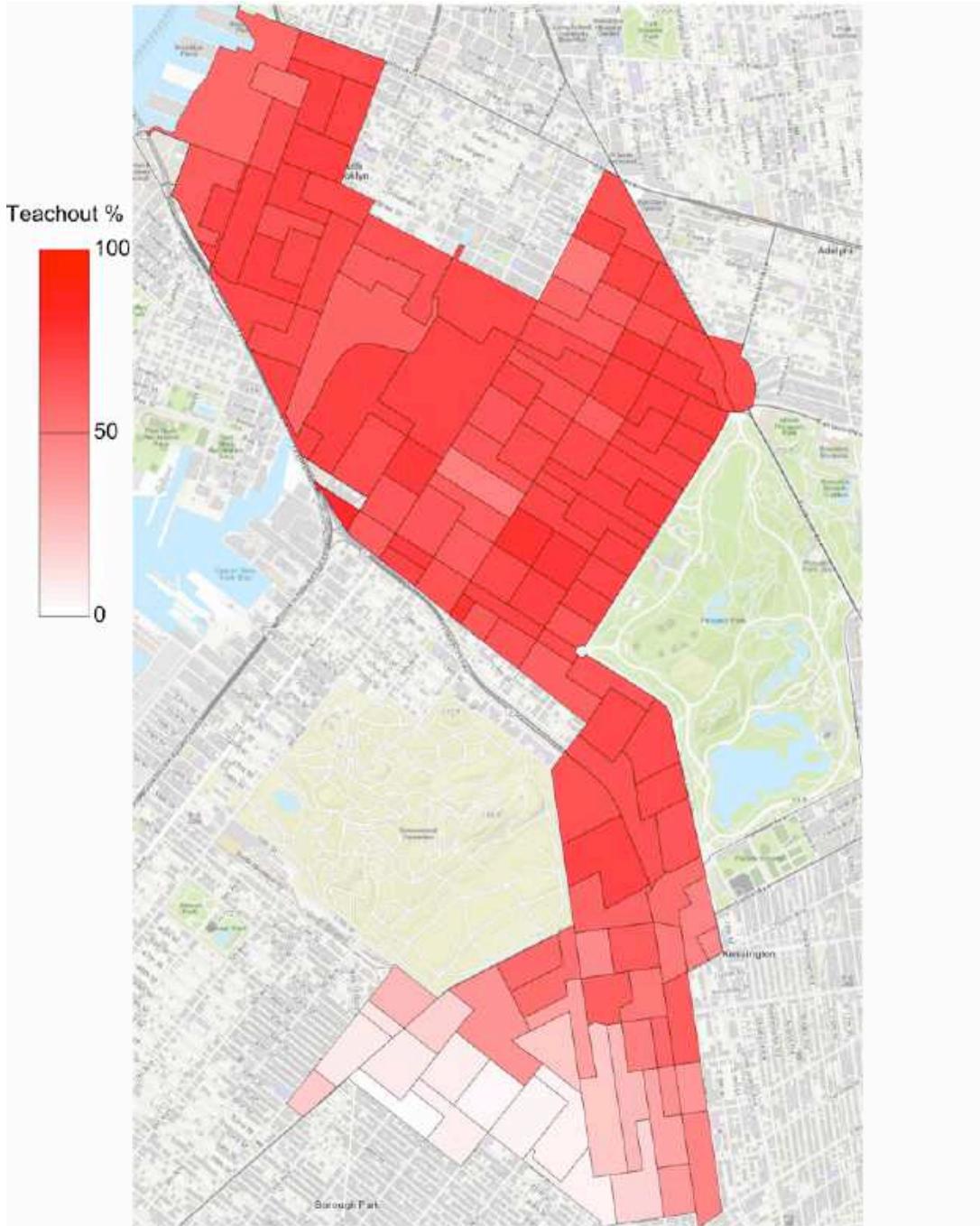
Lt. Governor Primary 2018

	Williams	Hochul	Write-in	Total
District count	23,528	8,506	58	32,092
District %	73.3%	26.5%	0.2%	100.0%
Kings County count	174,781	100,799	581	276,161
Kings County %	63.3%	36.5%	0.2%	100.0%



Attorney General 2018

	Teachout	James	Maloney	Write-in/Other	Total
District count	21,159	8,815	3,217	471	33,662
District %	62.9%	26.2%	9.6%	1.4%	100.0%
Kings County count	91,916	163,715	36,002	5,367	297,000
Kings County %	30.9%	55.1%	12.1%	1.8%	100.0%



Basic Power Mapping - Organizations, Electeds, Political Clubs

- Overlapping Electeds/Political Jurisdictions

You can find your overlapping districts via the link below. Simply toggle the box under “Query Overlapping Districts” and select “City Council Districts”. Then select the City Council district you are working on. Hit select and an informational box will appear on the right hand side. We are interested in overlapping Assembly Districts, State Senate Districts, and Congressional Districts, and Community Districts.

<https://boundaries.beta.nyc/>

- NYS Assembly
 - Districts: 42, 44, 48, 51, 52, 53
 - Rodneyse Bichotte (AD 42)
 - Bio: Rodneyse is the Assemblymember and District Leader for the 42nd AD, and the current Chairperson of the Kings County Democratic County Committee (aka the party boss for Brooklyn Democrats). She was endorsed by the previous Chair of the Democratic County Committee, Frank Seddio. She is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. She entered politics with an unsuccessful Assembly primary run against Assemblymember Rhoda Jacobs, but won the open seat in 2014. She was a chairwoman of Jumaane Williams' successful 2019 public advocate campaign, and endorsed Bill de Blasio for president in 2020.
 - Her alliance with Jumaane dimmed after [Farah Louis' City Council race](#).
 - Home club: Kings County Democratic County Committee
 - Alliances: Jumaane Williams in 2019 (but has lessened), Bill de Blasio, Frank Seddio, Josue Pierre
 - Robert C. Carroll (AD 44)
 - Bio: Robert has been an Assemblymember since 2017. Previously, he was a practicing attorney, and a member of Brooklyn Community Board 7. He was endorsed by the Working Families Party as well as the outgoing incumbent, James F. Brennan, in his 2016 Assembly election. He has supported some of DSA's platform, most notably [Public Power](#). He is a member of:
 - Subcommittee on Museums and Cultural Institutions (Chair)
 - Committee on Cities
 - Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions
 - Committee on Election Law
 - Committee on Environmental Conservation
 - Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts, and Sports Development
 - Home club: Community Board 7
 - Alliances: Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats

- Simcha Eichenstein (District 48) [copied from CC D44 Dossier]
 - Bio: Before his election, Simcha served on New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's legislative affairs team in Albany, and as part of the mayor's senior Intergovernmental staff at City Hall. Before joining the mayor's team, Simcha served for four years as a senior aide to New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli and also previously served as the political affairs director at a public relations firm, as a special assistant in the New York State legislature, and as a member of Brooklyn's Community Board 12. He's a member of:
 - Subcommittee on Outreach and Oversight of Senior Citizen Programs.
 - Committee on Aging.
 - Committee on Cities.
 - Committee on Housing.
 - Committee on Real Property Taxation
 - Committee on Social Services
 - Home Club: Community Board 12
 - Felix W. Ortiz (AD 51) [defeated 2020 by Marcela Mitaynes]
 - Bio: Ortiz was elected to State Assembly in 1995, and has been the Assistant Speaker since 2015. He previously served in the US Army. During his tenure, he passed a law to ban the use of cell phones while driving, and introduced a bill to lower the drinking age. He was formerly the Democratic district leader for AD 51, and served on the 72nd precinct community council. He unsuccessfully ran for NY City Council in District 38 in 2017 (defeated by Carlos Menchaca in the primary), and was defeated in the 2020 Assembly primary by DSA-endorsed tenant organizer Marcela Mitaynes.
 - Home club: National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
 - Alliances:
 - Jo Anne Simon (AD 52) [copied from CC D35 dossier]
 - Bio: Simon entered public life in 2004 when she was elected female District Leader and State Committeewoman for the 52nd Assembly District. She ran an unsuccessful bid for Brooklyn's 33rd City Council district in 2009, where she was endorsed by the NYT and lost to Steve Levin. She announced she would run for Joan Millman's seat in May of 2014 and won 53% of the vote. Her primary challenger, Peter J. Sikora, ran in the general election on the Working Families line. Sikora, a member of CWA, seems to have had a lot of support in this race, Bill de Blasio, Brad Lander, former State Senator Daniel Squadron, and the Independent Neighborhood Democrats all endorsed him. She has publicly backed some of our policy goals such as the HALT Solitary Confinement Act and started her law career in disability civil rights.
 - Home club: Boerum Hill Association
 - Alliances: Scott Stringer, Nydia Velazquez, Independent Neighborhood Democrats
-
- NYS Senate
 - Simcha Felder (SD 17)
 - Bio: Felder has also served as Deputy Comptroller for Budget, Accounting, Administration and Information Technology in the New York City Comptroller's Office. Simcha previously worked for the New York State Assembly and as a tax auditor for the New York City Department of Finance.
 - Home club: n/a

- Alliances: Orthodox Jewish community organizations, Yeshiva organizations. City Council Members Chaim Deutsch and Kalman Yeger, and NYS Assemblymember Simcha Eichenstein
- Zellnor Myrie (SD 20)
 - Bio: Myrie unseated former IDC Assemblyman Jesse Hamilton in 2018 and publicly supported ending qualified immunity for police officers, the HSTPA of 2019 and was a cosponsor of Gianaris' Cancel Rent bill. Myrie pledged not to accept donations from the real estate industry, but in fact has accepted over \$10,000 in his short tenure.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Diana Richardson, Indivisible, No IDC, Working Families Party
- Kevin S. Parker (SD 21)
 - Bio: After Parker ran and lost in a very crowded City Council field in 2001 he ran for a newly drawn State Senate seat and won with only 35% of the vote. Parker's tenure has been mired with angry outbursts and even assaults. He's been accused of punching a traffic cop in the face, assaulting a primary challenger, shoving a legislative staffer, and fracturing the finger of a New York Post reporter/ photographer. If any of these charges had led to a felony charge, Parker would have lost his senate seat. He drew his first primary since 2008 this year, but it appears his opponent, Josue Pierre, who is the cousin of Kings County Democratic Party Boss Rodneyese Bichotte, was pressured to drop out and run instead for a vacant City Council seat. Parker is the majority whip in the Democratic conference.

He also plans on running for Comptroller in 2021.

- Home club:
- Alliances: Parker has been in office a long time and even with his outbursts has successfully built alliances with many elected officials at all levels of the democratic party.

His alliance with Bichotte dimmed after Farah Louis' City Council race.

- Velmanette Montgomery (SD 25) [Retiring in 2020]
 - Bio: Montgomery was elected in 1984, and has been re-elected 17 times, never facing serious opposition. She announced her retirement in 2020 and endorsed Tremaine Wright as her successor. She is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Children and Families, and has advocated for reproductive rights and affordable housing.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Tremaine Wright, Zellnor Myrie
- Brian Kavanagh (SD 26) [copied from CC D35 dossier]
 - Bio: Kavanagh received the democratic nomination for State Senate in 2017 when former Brooklyn party boss Frank Seddio decided to forgo an election and instead allocate all of the party votes to Kavanagh. Previously an Assembly Member in the East Village (now Harvey Epstein's seat), Kavanagh is best known for his work on fair election reform and gun safety laws. He is chair of the Housing Committee and was a target of the Universal Rent Control campaign for not hearing the bills and watering down some of the language.
 - Home club: Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats, CoDA
 - Alliances: Daniel Squadron

- US House of Representatives
 - Nydia Velazquez (NY-7)
 - Bio: Velazquez has been in congress since 1993. She was appointed to the NYC City Council in 1984, but lost to a challenger the following year. She was primaried from the left by Jeff Kurzon in 2014. During the race Kurzon was critical of Velazquez's ties with the banking and financial service industries, however she won the primary by a large margin. She was an early endorser of Bernie Sanders for President and is a frequent collaborator with AOC.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Antonio Reynoso
 - Yvette Clarke (NY-9)
 - Bio: Clark was elected to New York City Council in 2001. She succeeded her mother, former City Council member Una S. T. Clarke, who held the seat for more than a decade. In her 13 years in Congress, she hasn't made noise on anything in particular. A generally reliable Democratic vote, in 2010, she broke ranks and was one of 36 Democrats to vote against a Democrat-sponsored bill to enhance disclosure requirements for corporate spending in elections. She does support some of our policy goals such as Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, and abolishing ICE.
 - Home club: Progressive Democrats Political Association in Brooklyn (Clarke's mother is president)
 - Alliances: Hakeem Jeffries, Bill de Blasio
 - Jerrold Nadler (NY-10)
 - Bio: Nadler was a member of NY State Assembly from 1977 to 1992. He ran for Manhattan Borough President in 1985, and was defeated by David Dinkins. In 1989, he ran for NYC Comptroller and lost to Elizabeth Holtzman. Nadler was elected to congress in 1992. He is the chairman of the US House Committee on the Judiciary and a member of the CPC. He is considered one of the most liberal members of Congress. His legislative career has focused on civil rights, transportation/infrastructure, and 9/11 recovery. He is an ardent supporter of Israel and of providing US foreign aid to Israel. He is a cosponsor of M4A and signed the Green New Deal resolution.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Nydia Velazquez

- Community Boards: 06, 07, 12
- CB 06 Brooklyn
 - Neighborhoods covered: Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Gowanus, and Cobble Hill
 - Major issues: Gowanus rezoning
 - Key figures:
- CB 07 Brooklyn
 - Neighborhoods covered: Sunset Park, South Slope, Windsor Terrace
 - Major issues:
 - Key figures: Cesar Zuniga is chair. He is running for City Council.
- CB 12 Brooklyn
 - Neighborhoods covered: Kensington, Borough Park, Ocean Parkway, Midwood
 - Major issues:
 - Key figures:

● Political Clubs

A good way to find this information is by googling the council member for the district and reading up about organizations in articles pertaining to your district.

- Name of Club
 - URL
 - President:

Political clubs + Political Organizations

- [Central Brooklyn Independent Democratic Club](#)

- President: Asher Novek
- Mostly Park Slope based. Institutionalist progressives.
- Assemblymember Bobby Carroll was the former President of this club.
- Notable 2020 endorsements:
 - Yvette Clarke
 - Jason Salmon
 - Genesis Aquino
 - Walter Mosley
- Notable 2017 endorsements:
 - Brian Cunningham (over incumbent CM Eugene)
 - Ede Fox (over incumbent CM Cumbo)
- In 2016, they endorsed Bernie Sanders

- [Independent Neighborhood Democrats](#)

- President: Jason Shelly
- Mostly based in Boerum Hill/Carroll Gardens part of district
 - Encompasses only AD 52
- Closely aligned with Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon
- 2020 Notable endorsements:
 - Tremaine Wright
 - Yvette Clarke

● Organizations

- [Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice](#)

- Their main issue is about a just rezoning in Gowanus

- [Gowanus By Design](#)

- Their main issue is about a just rezoning in Gowanus

- [Park Slope Civic Council](#)

- Their main issues are about expanding Park Slope's historic district, 4th Avenue revitalization, and general quality of life issues in Park Slope

- [GetOrganizedBK](#)
 - President: n/a
 - Brad Lander co-created this group after Donald Trump's election in 2016.
 - [Run-NYC](#) is the sub-group that makes endorsements
 - Notable endorsements in 2017/2018:
 - Zellnor Myrie
 - Justin Brannan
 - Marc Fliedner for Brooklyn DA
 - [Indivisible Nation BK](#) was another offshoot of GetOrganized BK
 - Notable endorsements in 2020:
 - Jamaal Bowman
 - Diana Richardson
 - Marcela Mitaynes
 - Jabari Brisport
 - Walter Mosley
 - Isiah James
- History of DSA Activism in this District
 - Electoral:
 - Marcela Mitaynes and Jabari Brisport elections both had slivers of the district.
 - Issue:
 - Public Power & Green New Deal:
 - AM Bobby Carroll held a [town hall](#) in Kensington about GND and Public Power
 - Carroll is the main sponsor of the 3 public power bills in the NYS Senate and an ally of the DSA Ecosocialist WG

District 40

David Alexis

``` NYC-DSA City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2021

Thank you for applying for an endorsement with the New York City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. If you have any questions about this document or the endorsement process feel free to email us at endorsements@socialists.nyc. And please return the completed questionnaire by August 15, 2020.

A. DSA and Democratic Socialism

1. Are you a member of DSA? If not, would you join?
 - I am a member of DSA**
2. What is your theory of social change?
 - I believe social change occurs when working and vulnerable people organize and put pressure on the levers of power hold elected officials and capitalists accountable**
3. How does the campaign you are planning and the elected position you are considering relate to your theory of social change? How do you see electoral politics advancing socialism?
 - Our campaign for City Council will be one geared for turning the seat into a platform for organizing. Electoral politics have presented goals that people can rally around. Focusing on issues that have arisen due to our capitalist system represent an opportunity to pose an alternative path forward**
4. Do you identify as a socialist?
 - Yes**
5. What does socialism mean to you?
 - A capitalist system incentivizes the inequalities, oppression and exploitation. Organizing to transform this system into one that addresses the material needs and wants of all people, particularly that of working people who are the essential foundation of our society. In other words, it's that the government should be used fully democratized so its people can thrive and live a fulfilled life.**
6. Are you willing to run publicly as a socialist?
 - Yes**
7. Will you be willing to run with other DSA-endorsed candidates as a slate?
 - Yes**
8. Will you publicize DSA's endorsement?
 - Yes**
9. How does your candidacy represent the district you intend to run in, along with NYC-DSA?
 - Our candidacy seeks to focus on the issues of our district (such as housing, education, police brutality and overreach, and income inequality) and work with organizers and activists on the ground to address these issues. Of the most outstanding, supports for education, food and housing security, access to high speed internet,**

and solutions for TLC Licensed drivers (Uber and Lyft drivers). We also seek to collaborate with left movements and use our campaign as an opportunity to unite people across the district and showcase the power that comes from organized people

10. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from for-profit corporations or for-profit corporate PACs?
 - Yes**
11. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions from real estate developers, corporate lobbyists, and landlords?
 - Yes**
12. Will you pledge not to take any campaign contributions or endorsements from organizations in the carceral system (such as law enforcement unions)?
 - Yes**
13. Are you open to working with DSA when developing your platform?
 - Absolutely**
14. Will you allow the DSA Electoral Working Group to create campaign materials to distribute during its work on your campaign?
 - Absolutely**
15. DSA has a large and active volunteer base. Will you support DSA training our own volunteers, running our own canvasses, and campaigning openly as DSA members?
 - Yes**
16. Who will be running your field program?
 - Our campaign is still relatively new and we have yet to appoint a person to this role**
17. Will you allow DSA to collaborate with you on your field plan and program?
 - Yes**
18. Will you allow DSA to keep copies of all data we collect through voter contact?
 - Absolutely**
19. What staff and/or consultants have you hired?
 - None**
20. What voter contact program are you using for your campaign?
 - None at the moment**
21. In past campaigns, DSA has had teams of member-organizers who work directly with campaign staff on areas such as field, communications, fundraising, data, and legal compliance. Will you agree to this arrangement and guarantee that your staff will build direct relationships with members of our campaign team?
 - Absolutely**

B. Goals of Your Campaign

1. What is your estimated number of votes needed to win?
 - 6,801**
2. What is the central message of your campaign?

- **The office of City Council offers resources but the real power in district 40 is that of the people. If we organize effectively, defunding the police and keeping our communities safe, finding ways to invest in our schools and improve educational outcomes, mutual aid support and keeping our neighbors in their homes**
- 3. What are the issues that will distinguish you from other candidates?
 - **Our opponents are not socialists and I am the only democratic socialist.**
 - **Some of them are under investigation for corruption.**
 - **An interest in centering an antitrust and anti monopoly policies and tactics as part of the equation to building communal and worker power**
 - **Our housing and COVID-19 policy**
 - **Our approach to achieving increased participation from the community in more of the city governance**
- 4. How will your campaign appeal to working class voters and those disaffected with the political process?
 - **Our campaign will not only focus on “kitchen table” issues such as housing, unemployment, and education, but will offer residents the opportunity to play an active part in the improvement of their personal circumstances**
- 5. What party lines will you be seeking for the general election? Have you applied for the endorsement of the Working Families Party? Have you sought the endorsement of your county Democratic Committee?
 - **We fully intend to apply for the endorsement of the Working Families Party but will not seek the Democratic committee endorsement. The Brooklyn Democratic party establishment has identified several candidates they prefer, we are not going to seek them out**
- 6. How do you plan to approach Ranked-choice Voting?
 - **My approach is to be the voters first choice. For those who have a strong first choice preference other than I, to become their second choice. If I can get a significant amount of first choice votes and the plurality of second and third choice votes, I believe I will be situated to winning the election**
- 7. How much money will you need to successfully compete in this race and what is your plan to raise it?
 - **I aim to raise at minimum, \$21,000. That is the amount required to raise \$168,000 from the city’s public funds matching program. However, given the amount of money several other candidates have raised, I think I will need to raise more to create a campaign that can support enough staff to create a platform that organizes large numbers of residents to become more active in the political process.**
- 8. What relationships do you have in your district that could form a base of support, through activism, organizing, work or personal networks?

- I have several contacts, friendships and affiliation with the following:
 - The Independent Driving Guild that represents 120,000+ TLC licensed drivers, with 30,000+ members
 - Ebenezer International Church Of God (includes Church of God network of churches)
 - Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patient Network (while a 501c3, there are partnerships made with hospitals and other service providers from all over the district that can be developed)
 - Campaign for New York
 - a. Made up of unions and other healthcare stakeholders that may be willing to endorse
 - Partnerships with community organizations through United For Brownsville (while not in district, 2 distinct projects that are undergoing are building connections with other stakeholders and mutual aid networks within the district)
- 9. What endorsements do you have from elected officials, political organizations, unions and community leaders?
 - **None at the moment, at the beginning of the campaign**
- 10. How do you see yourself acting as a movement candidate? What does that mean to you?
 - **I think this means everything. One of the goals of this campaign is to use this as an opportunity to organize district residents and have them join the various left movements from housing for all, the Universal Healthcare, defund the police, to antitrust, I believe this is imperative to building real power in the model Bernie Sanders sought during his 2020 presidential campaign.**

C. Goals in Office

1. If elected, you'll be one of a few representatives who support a Democratic Socialist vision for our city. How will you work with other democratic socialists and allies in the City Council and other bodies (such as the state legislature) to form a unified and effective democratic socialist movement in the New York government?
 - **I fully intend to hold various town halls and public meetings where DSA and other movement allies can inform the public and offer opportunities for residents to get involved in the change they want to see**
 - **I would like to see more public planning and brainstorming on issues that directly address “kitchen table” issues that are within the purview of city council**
2. Beyond contributing significantly to capacity in field, fundraising and other aspects of the campaign, would you be open to having DSA members as staff in policy positions and/or to collaborating with our working groups on policy?

- **Absolutely. Staff is an essential part of policy. I have considered identifying key communities that can advance the agenda for several essential movements:**
 - **E.g. Joining the Technology Committee and working within to propose canceling city contracts with Amazon or Palantir who coordinate with ICE to track illegal immigrants using their services (e.g. Amazon Web Services)**
 - Do you know any members you'd feel confident could act in these positions?
 - **Not yet, but I am working with several Electoral Working Group members to create a kitchen cabinet and identify potential staff**
 - Do you have a relationship with any of our working groups?
 - **I have attended the following working groups/branch meetings:**
 - a. **Healthcare Working Group**
 - b. **Labor Branch**
 - c. **Tech Action**
 - d. **Immigration Justice Working Group**
3. What would the role of constituent services staff in your district be?
- **Collect information on:**
 - **Pressing Issues in the community**
 - **Burgeoning movements or organizing occurring organically in the community**
 - **Various stakeholders in the district and what functions they serve**
 - **Connecting constituents to powerful movements that directly relate to issues and concerns that are pressing for them**
4. Do you think there is a role for district staff in creating a climate for radical political change?
- **Absolutely! This premise is central to my campaign**
5. Will you agree to appear periodically at monthly DSA branch meetings in your district?
- **Absolutely. I am already a member of the Central Brooklyn Branch**
6. Will you join a Democratic Socialist caucus in the City Council?
- **Absolutely.**
7. If elected, what are your top 3 legislative priorities?
- **My legislative priorities are to keep my constituents safe in their homes(Housing), education and healthcare reform**
8. What committees would you want to join?
- **Land Use**
 - **Health**
 - **Hospital**
 - **Education**
 - **Technology**

- Civil Service and Labor**
- 9. Who do you think you will support as Speaker of the City Council?
 - As I just started my campaign research, I'm still unsure, but I am interested in learning about DSA's analysis on the topic.**

D. COVID-19 Policy and Demands

1. Will you sign onto and advocate for NYC-DSA's [The People's Bailout for New York: A Socialist Response to the COVID-19 Crisis?](#)
 - Yes**
2. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Making all COVID-19 testing and treatment free and accessible?
 - Yes**
 - Permanently housing the homeless using all means available, including emergency rent assistance and seizing vacant property through eminent domain?
 - Yes**
 - Canceling rent and debt payments for the duration of the crisis?
 - Yes**
 - Reducing policing during the crisis by putting a moratorium on arrests and limiting police enforcement of social distancing rules?
 - Yes**
 - Blocking ICE from hospitals and courthouses?
 - Yes**
3. How will you fight city budget cuts to social services that will be proposed in the wake of COVID-19?
 - Cuts have already been made. We need to educate the community on these cuts and organize them to fight against the forces looking to shrink funding to social services. In addition, helping residents channel organized power to push for investing in social services by shrinking the NYPD budget (e.g. Tactical and SWAT funding) at the city level and organize for increased taxes on corporations and the wealthy at the state level.**

E. Housing and Land Use

1. Do you believe housing is a human right and should be guaranteed to all?
 - Yes**
2. What are your proposals for creating deeply and permanently affordable housing for all New Yorkers?
 - My proposals include:**
 - Forcing developers to enter participatory community meetings and programs that require them to reinvest in the community and work together with community stakeholders**
 - Community driven zoning and development process**

- Progressive property tax system that removes the tax burden from the working class through available municipal policy tools and by pressuring state legislators
- Triple the amount of city-owned and operated sheltering capacity for unhoused neighbors
- End landlord discrimination against nonviolent, previously incarcerated neighbors
- Expand tenants' rights and protections, including just cause eviction regulations and tenant relocation funding
- Strengthen Rent Control laws
- Preserving low rent market rental units in neighborhoods with the highest risk of displacement
- Tenant operated social housing for all - not just in the poorest in our community by utilizing new progressive revenue sources and bonding against existing revenue sources (e.g. housing co-ops, community land trust)
- Organize New York residents to pressure congressional representatives to increase funding to HUD and NYCHA

3. What do you see as the causes of gentrification and displacement? How will you address them as a Council Member?
 - Economic inequality, increased costs of living, neighborhood divestment, increased debt, and hyper focused policing of black and brown neighborhoods are at the heart of gentrification and displacement. Driving neighborhood investment to the current residents and the key services they rely on and curbing corporate power in the district is the best way to address this issue. I believe doing this in a way that creates economic opportunities for workers, small businesses and community based organizations will empower residents.
4. Would you support an immediate moratorium on the sale or lease of all city-owned land to for-profit developers? Would you require that any housing built on public land be 100% permanently affordable to low- and extremely-low income New Yorkers? How would you determine the affordability levels of housing built on public land?
 - Yes, we have no need for more private for profit developers. Affordability levels should be based on the people who actually live in the zipcode of a development rather than the speculation on the real estate in the district or the region's AMI.
5. What is your assessment of the commercial rent crisis in New York City? How would you address it? What are your positions on the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA—Int 0737-2018) and Commercial Rent Stabilization bill (Int 1796-2019) currently in committee in the City Council?
 - Predatory corporate landowners hike rents that choke business productivity for small businesses across the city limiting economic opportunities for New Yorkers. Real estate monopolies have a

chokehold on commercial real estate and create a hostile environment for commercial renters. This can be addressed by antitrust enforcement and investigation into abuses by real estate monopolies.

- **I am not familiar with the ‘Small Business Jobs Survival Act’ or the ‘Commercial Rent stabilization bill’ in committee. I would like to listen to what the Housing Working Group states on these bills**
- 6. What is your assessment of the City’s current land use approval process (e.g., ULURP)? How would you advocate changing it?
 - **I am not well versed on this process and would open to learning more about it and working with the Housing Working group to make this process more democratic and transparent to New York residents. From what I have been able to glean, I believe the community board should become more inclusive. More effective notice and communication with residents on upcoming RFPs for housing should be made. Even having staff knock on doors of lower income residents most affected by the RFP should be considered and utilized.**
- 7. Do you support Mayor de Blasio’s Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH/ZQA) program? What do you think of the strategy of creating affordable housing by incentivizing private developers?
 - **I am not well versed on this program. From what I do understand, it’s insufficient in scope. The goal must be in creating high quality public housing instead of the current affordable housing model. I am interested in working with the Housing working group and constituents on what might best address the housing crisis**
- 8. Do you support imposing affordability requirements on as-of-right development?
 - **Affordability requirements on as-of-right development for corporate developers should absolutely be imposed. When addressing small landlords/homeowners, a more nuanced approach may be best. I would like to consult with the Housing Working group and other experts to understand how this status has been used historically in New York City.**
- 9. What role do you think land zoned for manufacturing use should play in New York’s economic ecosystem? Would you seek to increase or decrease land zoned for manufacturing? Why?
 - **Manufacturing could be an opportunity for economic growth but should be carefully considered and approached in a way that edifies and creates opportunities for workers and does not disrupt the lives of neighbors. Not sure about changing the amount of land zoned for manufacturing as I need to do more research on this matter**
- 10. How would you seek to end racist and economically discriminatory and undemocratic rezonings?
 - **My plans include:**

- **Community driven zoning and development processes should put the power back in the hands of community members.**
 - **Forcing developers to bring their plans before the community allows the community to check the power of corporate developers**
 - What is/has been the most important land use fight in your district?
What position did you or would you advocate for?
 - **I am not familiar with this yet and I plan to research and identify what this was. Supporting more resident control over the land use process is key.**
11. Do you support creating a comprehensive plan and/or community-based plans?
- **Yes**
12. How would you identify and obtain funds to rectify the chronic underfunding of maintenance and capital repairs in NYCHA buildings? Will you commit to ending the sale or leasing of NYCHA land and air rights? Do you support the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program? What would you do to increase tenants' democratic control?
- **There are several actions that should be taken:**
 - **Putting pressure on congressional representatives to push for funding for NYCHA**
 - **Appropriating funds for NYCHA**
 - **Sending real estate inspectors to determine the extent of the damages and repairs necessary**
 - **I will commit to ending the sale and/or leasing of NYCHA land and air rights**
 - **I am not as familiar with the RAD program and I'm interested in learning more from housing for all groups and the housing working group. From what I can glean, I believe the rental assistance demonstration would transfer management of NYCHA properties into private hands, which I oppose. We should be expanding and empowering public housing, not cannibalizing it.**
 - **You increase tenants' democratic control by developing housing co-ops and public housing. You also expand tenants' rights and protections**
13. Do you support the expansion of the Family Re-Entry Program to allow people coming home from incarceration the ability to live in public housing?
- **Yes**
14. What reforms would you advocate in all agencies that touch on land use decision-making, such as the Department of City Planning (DCP), the City Planning Commission (CPC), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the Department of Buildings (DOB), the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) or any other relevant bodies, to remove the influence of the real estate industry from agency decision making?

- I am not as familiar with this subject and would be interested in learning more from the Housing working group and other housing for all groups. From what I've been able to glean, I would like to see reforms such as:

- Making the entire land use decision making process more transparent
 - Increasing funding of these agencies to perform their jobs effectively
 - Allowing community members the opportunity to hear both sides of the debate and more context of the impact of the decision on their neighborhood
 - a. This should include any knowledge of the history of the developer (e.g. work on previous developments and reputation)

15. How will you protect public parks and green spaces from privatization by developers and conservancies?

- Create regulation and laws that ban developments on all public commons.

16. Will you support the following as a City Council member: (For any you don't support, please explain why)

- Increased funding to enforce recently passed rent regulation laws?
 - Yes
 - Vastly increasing funding and support for democratically controlled low-income housing, such as Community Land Trusts (CLTs)?
 - Yes
 - Increased funding for enforcement of fair housing laws?
 - Yes
 - The aggressive use of city programs and eminent domain to take ownership of distressed properties and transfer them to community control?
 - Yes
 - Removing all city funding from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and eliminating all of the EDC's power in relation to land use, planning, and economic development?
 - Yes
 - Lobbying for the repeal of 421-a and redirecting money to permanent, non-profit, cooperatively-owned, or public affordable housing programs?
 - Yes

17. Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist land use platform?

- YES

F. Expanding and Deepening Our Democracy

1. How would you seek to increase democratic involvement and representation within your district?
 - **Develop transparent and democratic local decision making. By encouraging community driven zoning and development processes. Ensuring that local zoning and budgetary decisions are in the hands of the residents of district 40.**
2. How do you view the role of the Council, particularly in comparison to the Mayor, Comptroller, and Public Advocate?
 - **The City Council has a responsibility to listen and be attentive to the needs of their constituents. The Mayor tries to balance the needs of the City as a whole, and the Comptroller looks at the budget, government spending and financial data, and the Public Advocate seeks to root out corruption and investigate major citywide issues. Each council member has the ability to have a more direct relationship with the members of their district, engage regularly with them on the pressing issues in the district and allow for the councilmember**
3. What are your thoughts on community boards and their role in city governance? Do you want to change how the boards are selected and/or operate? If so, how?
 - **Community boards are an excellent opportunity for community members to participate in the matters that affect the neighborhood. They also offer an opportunity and structure to interactions of residents and their councilmember. However, joining a community board is not always transparent and meetings don't always offer constituents the ability to learn more about the issues being discussed or participate effectively.**
 - **It is crucial that community boards are elected through direct democracy**
 - **It is actually crucial to increase resident participation in community boards, particularly for the most vulnerable of our population.**
4. What interests or communities would you try to represent with your appointments?
 - **I would like to give a voice to not only the major demographics and groups within the community, but to those whose voices have long been absent from the discussions of housing and other key matters within the community.**
5. What are your thoughts on nonpartisan city elections?
 - **That would be ideal and definitely foster a more direct democracy**
6. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Increasing the public matching funds ratio for New York City elections?
 - **Yes**
 - Requiring all Council Members to participate in Participatory Budgeting and expanding funding for the program?
 - **Yes**

- Offering all City residents the right to vote in City elections, regardless of immigration status or prior felony conviction?

■ Yes

G. Labor

1. What is your relationship to unions and the labor movement in New York City?
 - **I am an active member of the Independent Drivers Guild. I am also a member of the NYC-DSA Labor Branch**
2. What would you do to support the rights of workers to form unions, and to expand unionization in New York City?
 - **Require Project Labor Agreements for all city building contracts**
 - **Prioritize union agencies for all city business**
 - **Encourage local unions to do job drives**
3. What minimum salary do you promise to pay your staffers? How does this reflect your ideas of what a living wage should be, and who should have access to the political system?
 - **I do not have experience in running a campaign in order to assess that at this time. But it should be a living wage, meaning that New Yorkers in various socio-economic circumstances (e.g., taking care of children) are able to help build this campaign and music.**
4. How should New York respond to the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* case?
 - **This case and the subsequent rulings were designed to cut funding to unions and weaken them further. New York as a union town needs to prioritize supporting unions by identifying ways to make up for the lost funding. Congressional representatives should be pushing for legislation to strengthen unions, prevent nominations of problematic figures to the national labor relations board and incentivize union labor for real estate developments all across New York**
5. How can we ensure fair conditions for people working in New York City's gig economy?
 - **Allow independent contractors to collectively bargain**
 - **Give independent contractors the option to decide if they are independent contractors or employees**
6. Will you unconditionally support any striking workers in New York, even if their actions violate legal restrictions?
 - **Yes**
7. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Raising the local NYC wage beyond \$15? What do you think the minimum wage should be?
 - **Yes, \$30 with caveats for small businesses**
 - City legislation on work schedule stability?
 - **Yes**
 - City legislation to require paid vacation for all workers?

- Yes
- Banning unpaid internships (including in your City Council office)?
 - Yes
- The right of City Council staff to unionize?
 - Yes
- Card check neutrality?
 - Yes

H. Decarceration

1. What is your view on the role of police in New York City public schools?
 - **Police should play no role in New York City public schools. Their presence strengthens the school-to-prison pipeline and represent the wrong approach to making schools safer**
2. What steps would you support taking to end the “school-to-prison pipeline”?
 - **Increase funding to the public school system through progressive taxes on the wealthy**
 - **Develop desegregation programs, including in high school admissions testing.**
 - **Push for increase in teacher’s wages**
 - **Push for the hiring of more counselors and social workers.**
3. Do you support reducing the NYPD budget? If so, by how much? If not, why?
 - **Yes. I believe shrinking it by the NYC-DSA recommended amount of 3 billion would begin to dismantle the city’s police state.**
4. Would you support a hiring freeze and reductions in the NYPD force?
 - **Yes**
5. Do you see an armed police force as a primary or a necessary institution to foster public safety? If not, what concrete policies or programs would you like to see as an alternative? How would you hope to begin moving towards them?
 - **I do not believe an armed police force as a primary institution to foster public safety. While I do not believe the complete abolishing of an armed police force, I think the NYPD is intertwined with systemic racism and needs to be redesigned from the ground up.**
6. Do you support shifting most or all of the police budget to other purposes or agencies?
 - Yes
 - Would you support shifting noise complaints, mental health crises, and most other conflict handling currently in NYPD’s purview to trained social workers without weapons?
 - Yes
 - Do you support returning traffic enforcement to the Department of Transit?
 - Yes

- In general, will you commit to reforms that decrease the funding and size of the NYPD, rather than reforms that increase its size and funding (even in the form of training, body cameras, etc.?)

■ Yes

- Do you support a “duty to intervene” law, to require police to intervene if they see another officer harming or risking a member of the public, with a failure to intervene a fireable offense?

■ Yes

- Would you support mandating that all NYPD [misconduct settlements](#) are paid for out of the agency’s existing or following year’s budget or through offending officers’ pensions, rather than paid by the ?

■ Yes

- Do you support attrition of NYPD through aggressive investigation and firings of officers found to have participated in unprovoked brutality in the ongoing protests?

■ Yes

- Would you support making covering name and badge number during any civilian interaction a fireable offense?

■ Yes

7. Do you consider yourself a prison abolitionist? If so, how will that affect how you legislate in the Council?

- **No. In office, I plan to support the redirecting of funds for prisons into social services and public housing and preventing new prisons from being built.**

8. Should NYC build borough-based jails to compensate for the closure of Rikers? If not, what should be done?

- **No, our prison population is already much too large. Non-violent drug offenders should released and a push for marijuana legalization should follow suit**
- **Those who are currently imprisoned under mandatory minimum sentencing laws should have their sentences reduced.**
- **Regulations and guidance should be issued to district attorneys to stop unnecessary imprisonment of persons for minor infractions and misdemeanors. DAs must find justification to spend public taxpayer dollars on any request for imprisonment for anyone.**

9. What role should police play in regard to the homeless?

- **They should not play a role, it should be handled by specifically trained social workers and mental healthcare professionals.**

10. Do you support the following: (For any you don’t support, please explain why)

- Not building any new jails, prisons, or detention centers in New York City?

■ Yes

- Significantly reducing the number of people in NYC jails and prisons (beyond the criminal justice reforms already passed)?

■ Yes

- Creating a city bail voucher program to ensure that no one is held in a city jail for lack of funds (the proposal is outlined on pg. 14 of [No New Jails policy packet](#))?
 - Yes
- Ending or dramatically curtailing the practice of cash bail entirely?
 - Yes
- A ban on the use of facial recognition software by law enforcement agencies?
 - Yes
- A ban on partnerships and data sharing with private surveillance companies and tools, such as Amazon Ring?
 - Yes
- A ban on the use of predictive policing algorithms?
 - Yes
- An elected and empowered Civilian Complaint Review Board?
 - Yes
 - Can we achieve police accountability through the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If so, how? If not, how can we hold police accountable?
 - a. **This is only part of the process to achieve police accountability. Regular surveying of the community on police conduct which is then tied to officer pay incentives and evaluations.**
- Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a platform for decarceration and community safety and work to implement those goals while in office?
 - Yes

I. Socialist Feminism

1. Are you a feminist?
 - Yes
2. What does feminism mean to you?
 - **Feminism is the fight against inequality and discrimination for a more equitable world. The tenets of intersectionality, socialism, and the fight against capitalism and concentrated corporate power are at the heart of feminism.**
3. What would you do to address high rates of violence against transgender women, particularly trans women of color?
 - **I am not as familiar with the recommended policies from the LGBTQIA communities on this matter and would like to consult with LGBTQIA groups on the best way to:**
 - Create a safe and supportive environment
 - Crack down on negligent behavior of NYPD investigators
 - Make the reporting process easier, more accessible and judgement free

- **Sensitivity training for NYPD investigators and prosecutors**
 - **Investment in more supports for the LGBTQIA community(e.g. Mental health support)**
- 4. What would you do in office to address the problem of sexual harassment and assault against women in precarious situations, whether in housing, immigration, or low-wage work, that imperils their livelihood, homes, or presence in this country?
 - **I am not familiar with all of the legislation that already exists but actions I would take include but are not limited to:**
 - **A transparent process for women to engage with that is simple and easy to access.**
 - **More funding for anonymous hotlines and services(e.g. Mental health support)**
 - **Due Process for accused at every stage of the reporting process**
 - **Allow for claims and evidence to be recorded and accessible to investigators**
 - **Create a safe space for victims through policy**
- 5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Funding free preschool, childcare and maternity/paternity leave?
 - **Yes**
 - Ending "religious exemptions" to bans on discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity?
 - **Yes**
 - Decriminalizing sex work
 - **Yes**

J. Healthcare Justice

1. What are your thoughts on [NYC Care](#), or a similar citywide program, that would expand healthcare coverage to the uninsured? How would you guarantee poor and working-class people have access to comprehensive health care services that are free at the point of care, such as reproductive care, mental health, dental, vision, and primary care?
 - **I support NYC Care**
 - **Push for the creation of public hospitals or facilities that provide free at the point of service care to low income residents.**
2. How would you guarantee poor and working class people have access to reproductive care?
 - **Provide free universal child care**
 - **Seek out and support organizations that provide free contraception**
 - **Push for continued rejection of title 10 federal funds**
3. Would you support building safe injection sites? If so, where? How would you expand harm reduction programming in NYC?
 - **Yes, public bathrooms, port authority, nearby medical facilities**

4. Will you oppose the expansion of policing and incarceration into NYC hospitals, including the currently proposed jail beds?
 - Yes**
5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why):
 - Health care as a human right for all people
 - Yes**
 - Fully-funding public hospitals/community health centers and preventing the closing of any public health care institutions?
 - Yes**
 - New Yorkers' rights to reproductive health care, including abortion without restriction and on demand?
 - Yes**

K. Education

1. Would you support New York City and State fulfilling the promise of the Campaign For Fiscal Equity by increasing funding to public schools by \$4 billion, most of which is owed to districts with high percentages of Black, Brown and low-income students?
 - Yes**
2. What is your stance on uneven PTA fundraising across schools? How would you address this problem?
 - Provide a fund matching program for high-need, low-income schools**
3. Do you support Mayoral control of City schools? If so, why? If not, what alternative do you propose?
 - No, because it's undemocratic. We need school boards elected through direct democracy**
4. What is your position on the City's high school admissions procedures?
 - Eliminate high school admissions testing**
5. How will you fight to desegregate the City's school system?
 - Increase funding to the public school system through progressive taxes on the wealthy**
 - Push for desegregation of housing, by expanding public housing**
 - Develop desegregation programs, including in high school admissions testing.**
 - Redrawing school district lines**
 - Support for controlled choice ranking of schools within districts**
6. Do you support integrating NYC public schools based on race and socioeconomic status?
 - Yes**
 - Toward this end, do you support the elimination of academic screening, which entrenches educational stratification in NYC by sorting students largely according to their education privileges?
 - Yes**
7. Should "School Resource Officers" (i.e. cops in schools) exist?

- **No**

8. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Making CUNY tuition free?
 - **Yes**
 - Funding CUNY to meet adjunct's demand of \$7,000 per course (they are currently paid poverty wages)?
 - **Yes**
 - A ban on local funding (including tax advantages on income and property) for universities that allow admissions based on "legacy" and similar criteria?
 - **Yes**
 - Limits on the expansion of charter schools in the City?
 - **Yes**
 - Proper access to secular education for Yeshiva students?
 - **Yes**
 - Expanding the City's 3K program to all parts of the City?
 - **Yes**
 - A citywide prohibition on exclusionary school discipline (i.e. suspensions and expulsions)?
 - **Yes**
 - Removing screenings for schools and ensuring minimum academic diversity thresholds?
 - **Yes**
 - Enacting a comprehensive redistricting of public schools to ensure racial integration?
 - **Yes**
 - Fighting for the funding owed to NYC public schools by New York State?
 - **Yes**
 - Will you work with NYC-DSA to develop a socialist education platform?
 - **Yes**

L. Economic Justice

1. Due to lack of affordable options many households in New York City do not have internet access. What should the City be doing to guarantee that all residents have low-cost, high-speed internet access, without increasing the market dominance and consolidation of a handful of internet service providers?
 - **Providing municipally run public internet or mesh internet services**
2. Would you support increased transparency for all economic development deals entered into by the City, including:
 - Banning non-disclosure agreements in economic development negotiations?
 - **Yes**

- Implementing a “database of deals” to track the economic development budget, and company-specific reporting on relevant data re. jobs created and other promised returns on public investment?
 - Yes
 - Better delimitation of the geographic areas eligible for incentives?
 - Yes
- 3. Do you support the following: (For any you don’t support, please explain why)
 - Progressively raising the City’s income tax for higher tax brackets?
 - Yes
 - Common ownership of natural resources of New York State and any technologies or innovations developed with public funding as well as expansion of employee stock ownership plans, co-determination, community ownership, municipalization, and nationalization?
 - Yes
 - New York City home rule to establish new taxes for local revenue generation?
 - Yes
 - A cap on total subsidies and tax breaks corporations can receive from the City?
 - Yes
- 4. How can City Council help close the racial wealth gap in New York City? How can City Council help create more and better jobs for people of color?
 - **Fund labor standards enforcement**
 - **End the practice of employees being classified as independent contractors**
 - **Establish municipal funding and other support for worker-owned co-ops**
 - **Establish wage theft and discrimination task force as well as develop workers’ rights protections**
 - **Push for ban the box legislation**
- 5. Do you support efforts to found a public bank for the city that would prioritize neighborhood-led development and investments that benefit poor and working class New Yorkers?
 - Yes
- 6. Do you support postal banking -- the provision of low-cost, consumer-driven financial services via the Postal Service?
 - Yes

M. Immigrant Justice

1. What existing connections do you have with immigrant-led groups?
 - **My union, The Independent Driving Guild’s leadership has a strong immigrant contingent in positions of power but is not entirely immigrant led.**

- Are there specific immigrant communities in your district whose needs you plan to address in office? What are key issues for these communities?
 - **Yes, we have a large Caribbean and African population. Of the Caribbean population our Haitian immigrants have been dealing with ICE terrorism and fallout of Trump's repeal of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) which has allowed many Haitian immigrants the ability to setup lives here in the district.**
 - **Immigration Issues such as:**
 - a. Access to citizenship status information
 - b. Protection from ICE
 - c. Housing
 - d. Job Opportunities
 - e. Access to public assistance
 - f. Healthcare
 - How do you plan to use your office to provide constituent services to immigrants in your district?
 - **Providing resources to free immigration & law services**
 - **Make resources to aid in naturalization and citizenship process**
 - **Provide resources and aid in the process of petitioning for relatives**
 - **Connect immigrants to immigrant justice movements to find roles they can play in the expansion of immigrant rights**
2. What is your plan for language access on your campaign?
 - **I have not yet established this as I just started my campaign. My district has a large Haitian community and while my Haitian creole is rusty, my campaign will have fluent Haitian creole speakers**
 3. What steps do you think are necessary to establish stronger Sanctuary City protections in New York City?
 - **Push policy that city employees would be instructed not to respond to any requests from ICE officers, or to direct them to their director, and refuse to comply with any warrantless searches of city facilities or records.**
 - **Form a task force to support immigrant workers of wage theft and discrimination and bring public enforcement action to stop labor violations, and extending labor rights to domestic workers.**
 4. What steps do you think are necessary to end Broken Windows and Community policing, which disproportionately targets black and brown working-class people, including many undocumented immigrants, and puts immigrants at immediate risk by virtue of fingerprinting, the data for which is automatically shared with DHS?
 - **Prohibit police from profiling based on immigration status, race, religion, age, housing status, etc.**

- **Pass ordinance that blocks Amazon's (AWS) & Palantir's access to NYC's public databases for the purposes of law enforcement.**
 - **Push for the cancellation of any contracts, programs, or partnerships with Amazon until it cancels any contracts associated with ICE's tracking and internment program.**
 - **Decriminalization of crimes such as loitering, consumption of alcohol, disturbing the peace, jaywalking, & disorderly conduct.**
 - **Create ordinances that prohibit police from using funds to participate in immigration enforcement or transfer of custody.**
 - **Restrict use of technologies such as facial or license plate recognition for the purpose of targeting immigrants**
- 5. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Legislation prohibiting the use of City resources, personnel or funds to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law, such as traffic enforcement for ICE vehicles?
 - **Yes**
 - Legislation extending voting rights in municipal elections to immigrant New Yorkers?
 - **Yes**
 - Legislation strengthening the enforcement of worker misclassification laws, particularly around contractors, along with funding for a low-wage immigrant worker defense fund?
 - **Yes**
 - Increased, and permanent funding in the New York City budget for public defense, in both immigration and criminal proceedings?
 - **Yes**
 - Increased city funding for social services accessible to all residents, regardless of citizenship status, to counteract the impacts of Trump's "public charge rule" and immigrants' exclusion from COVID-19 federal aid?
 - **Yes**
 - Increased funding and resources for city agencies, hospitals and communities to develop policies and training for staff on know-your-rights information, both for the immigrant populations they serve and for themselves to exercise their rights to prevent ICE access & arrests?
 - **Yes**

N. Environmental Justice and Transportation

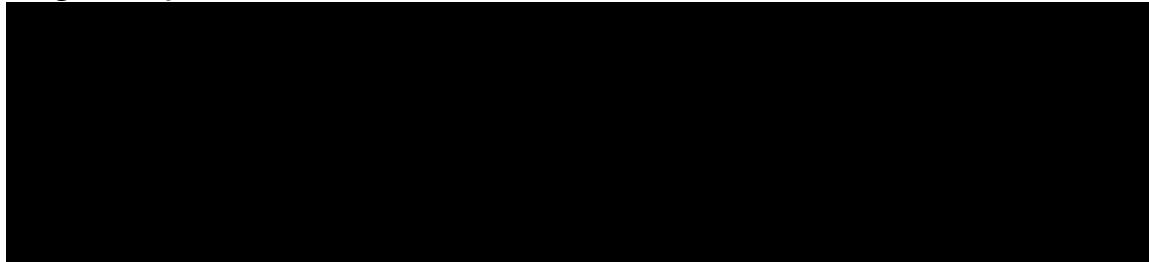
1. Do you endorse [DSA's Ecosocialist Green New Deal Guiding Principles](#)?
 - **Yes**
2. Would you commit to developing an ecosocialist platform for your campaign in close consultation with NYC-DSA's Ecosocialist Working Group and its allies?
 - **Yes**

3. Will you advance the goal of a publicly owned, democratically controlled energy system for New York in office?
 - **Yes**
4. Will you support unionization for all new green jobs and a just transition for fossil fuel industry workers, protecting them by providing them with job transition programs, retraining and income security?
 - **Absolutely**
5. Do you support new development in zone 1 and 2 emergency evacuation zone floodplains? Explain why or why not?
 - **I am not familiar with this issue and would be interested in working with the DSA Ecosocialist working group to learn more on this.**
6. What is your stance on powering NYC with Canadian hydropower?
 - **I would like to learn more about this issue as I'm not familiar with it. Especially when considering our own capacity for creating hydropower generators.**
7. What is your stance on City control of the subways?
 - **It is essential that the city control our subways**
8. Do you support fully funding the MTA capital plan and reducing or eliminating fares? What role do you believe the City Council can have in achieving this?
 - **Yes. While the City Council does not control the MTA, we have the ability to weigh in on several parts of the process and organize New York residents to put pressure on New York city state legislators. Looking for ways to get support from non New York City state legislators is imperative to ending the governor's control of the MTA.**
9. What are your primary modes of transportation? How will you commute to work at the council?
 - **Car, as an Uber driver I use my car mostly. I would likely use public transportation and some car service to commute to City Hall. This is due to if my children are able to attend school in person and/or if I need assist my wife with doctor visits or hospitalizations**
10. How do you plan to achieve the City's goals of zero waste by 2030 when the city has slashed funding for organics collection?
 - **I am not familiar with this issue but I believe working with the Ecosocialist working group and other NYC based environmental justice groups would help inform me on this issue and help find ways to reach the City's goal of zero waste by 2030**
11. Do you support the following: (For any you don't support, please explain why)
 - Decarbonizing the power grid?
 - **Yes**
 - City funding for community land trusts and programs modeled after the Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC)?
 - **Yes**
 - Decreasing carbon footprints of existing buildings through retrofits, prioritizing and fully funding NYCHA
 - **Yes**

- Centering and working with front-line, working-class communities of color while developing and implementing green infrastructure?
 - Yes
- Stopping all proposed new fossil fuel infrastructure, as well as drawing down all existing fossil fuel infrastructure in the next decade?
 - Yes
- Divesting City pension funds from all fossil fuel industries?
 - Yes
- Framing low-carbon public transit as a right and making the subway, buses, and transportation system free in the city?
 - Yes
- Increasing green, transit-oriented infrastructure, such as bike lanes and bus lanes, even if at the expense of parking and extra lanes for private motorists??
 - Yes
- Limiting the use of rideshare programs that flout worker rights and city regulations
 - Yes
- Eliminating parking placards
 - **No. I support handicap placards but support the reduction of other types of parking placards**
- Legalizing e-bikes and e-scooters
 - Yes
- Reducing the city vehicle fleet by at least 25%, with a special focus on NYPD's fleet.
 - Yes
- Renewable Rikers
 - How should we handle the power aspect of the proposed plan?
Who should own the power assets proposed?
 - a. **Not as familiar with all of the aspects of the Renewable Rikers plan but I believe the energy production assets should be city owned as they will be developed with city funds**
 - If the proposed study finds that there is too much needed extra capacity for the proposed Rikers wastewater treatment plant to replace other plants, do you support building one anyway? If not, what do you propose we do to eliminate our city's CSO problem?
 - a. **I am not familiar with this issue and would look to the ecosocialist working group and other environmental justice groups for more information on this matter.**
 - Centering transit justice as an equity, racial justice and social justice issue and adopting a "15-Minute City" plan for all New Yorkers
 - **Yes, this would be amazing**
 - Investing in public parks, green spaces, and community gardens and ending their privatization.

- Yes
- Building climate resilience measures such as hardened, raised architecture or expansion of wetlands, shores, and natural infrastructure around waterfronts and vulnerable areas.
 - Yes
- Ensure waterfronts are prioritized for use as accessible public spaces and floodwater catchments, rather than development parcels for private real estate.
 - Yes
- Take community input and ecosystem preservation into account to democratically plan a managed retreat from coastlines. Ensure disaster relief efforts prioritize the most vulnerable communities, are not means tested, and do not require citizenship checks.
 - Yes
- Having a municipally owned commercial waste collection system.
 - Yes
- Reducing food waste and expanding existing public food programs and municipal food purchasing and ensuring purchases are from farms that protect farmworkers rights and utilize regenerative and sustainable practices, including in urban farms.
 - Yes
- Supporting publicly or municipally owned broadband and guaranteeing internet access to all.
 - Yes
- Eliminating the jaywalking violation (Title 34, Section 4-04)
 - Yes
- Restoring parking and traffic enforcement to the NYC DOT from the NYPD
 - Yes

O. Foreign Policy



2. Do you support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement? If not, why?
 - Yes, of course because BDS opposes all forms of racism, including anti-semitism. Its purpose is to hold institutions and corporations that are implicated in Israel's systematic violations of Palestinian rights, which are human rights.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 40

SUMMARY

District 40 covers a swath of Brooklyn including Flatbush, Prospect Lefferts Garden, Prospect Park South, Ditmas Park, and Kensington. The incumbent, Mathieu Eugene, is a term-limited establishment Democrat. Many challengers have already jumped into the race. The district overlaps with three state assembly districts (D42 - Rodneyse Bichotte, D43 - Diana Richardson, D44 - Robert Carroll), three State legislative districts (D17 - Simcha Felder, D18 - Zellnor Myrie, D19 - Kevin Parker), and two national Congressional districts (D9 - Yvette Clarke, D10 - Jerry Nadler). There are 402 DSA members in the district. There are 104,173 registered voters, 81,927 of which are registered Democrats.

District 40 is a working class district, with a median family income of \$54,150 (about 89% of the citywide average). The overwhelming majority of the district are renters (85%) and the district is gentrifying. The district is majority Black (61%), with over a quarter (27%) of the entire population of the district of West Indian descent and there are many non-profits, political groups, and social clubs that organize the West Indian community in the area. In previous elections, progressive candidates have performed around the average for Kings county.

In previous elections, Mathieu Eugene was able to win with fewer than 10% of all registered Democrats voting for him in the primary. In the upcoming election, there are already 9 announced candidates, several of whom have raised substantial money. None of the announced candidates has a substantial connection to DSA. Joshua Pierre sought DSA endorsement in a previous campaign for State Senate and has spoken positively about the organization but DSA declined to endorse him. Brian Cunningham lost narrowly in the 2017 primary for this seat and received the backing of many progressive orgs and unions. No candidate has an overwhelming fundraising advantage at the moment.

With a relatively large number of DSA members and a working class community, DSA would have a real chance to win a City Council election in the district. DSA has a substantial number of members within the district but relatively less activity in the district than in other parts of Central Brooklyn. Moreover, as a predominantly Black part of the city, running a candidate in this neighborhood could help DSA recruit a more diverse base in this district and expand DSA's outreach among working class Black people. That said, DSA will be especially vulnerable to accusations of being an organization of gentrifiers in this district and it would be important for a DSA candidate in this race to be Black, a longtime resident of the district, and ideally of West Indian descent.

District Map



BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The District

Representation

Current Incumbent: Mathieu Eugene

Term Limit Year: 2021

Demographics

[Full NYC Planning Population FactFinder Results](#)

36 Census Tracts | Brooklyn: 818, 816, 508.01, 510.01, 820, 514, 508.03, 802, 506, 798.02, 492, 798.01, 822, 516.01, 516.02, 796.02, 329, 460, 518, 520, 526, 792, 796.01, 800, 804, 806, 824, 482, 508.04, 327, 510.02, 794, 808, 810, 512, 1522

	Selected Area	New York City	Difference
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	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Pctg. Pt.
Total population	153,871	100.00%	8,175,133	100.00%	-8,021,262	0
Population per acre	104.7		42.2		62.5	0
Male	70,224	45.60%	3,882,544	47.50%	-3,812,320	-1.9
Female	83,647	54.40%	4,292,589	52.50%	-4,208,942	1.9
Under 18 years	35,440	23.00%	1,768,111	21.60%	-1,732,671	1.4
21 years and over	112,035	72.80%	6,059,847	74.10%	-5,947,812	-1.3
62 years and over	20,438	13.30%	1,228,851	15.00%	-1,208,413	-1.7
65 years and over	16,004	10.40%	993,158	12.10%	-977,154	-1.7
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	25,276	16.40%	2,336,076	28.60%	-2,310,800	-12.1
White nonhispanic	20,083	13.10%	2,722,904	33.30%	-2,702,821	-20.3
Black/African American nonhispanic	94,400	61.40%	1,861,295	22.80%	-1,766,895	38.6
Asian nonhispanic	9,840	6.40%	1,028,119	12.60%	-1,018,279	-6.2
Some other race nonhispanic	1,212	0.80%	78,063	1.00%	-76,851	-0.2
Nonhispanic of two or more races	3,060	2.00%	148,676	1.80%	-145,616	0.2
Owner-occupied housing units	8,158	14.70%	962,892	31.00%	-954,734	-16.3
Renter-occupied housing units	47,401	85.30%	2,146,892	69.00%	-2,099,491	16.3
Less than high school graduate	15,990	15.60%	1,089,218	18.40%	-1,073,228	-2.8
Bachelor's degree or higher	34,152	33.20%	2,217,245	37.40%	-2,183,093	-4.2
English only	85,625	61.80%	4,009,822	50.90%	-3,924,197	10.9
Language other than English	52,892	38.20%	3,861,110	49.10%	-3,808,218	-10.9
Speak English less than "very well"	24,995	18.00%	1,821,170	23.10%	-1,796,175	-5.1
English only	85,625	61.80%	4,009,822	50.90%	-3,924,197	10.9
Language other than English	52,892	38.20%	3,861,110	49.10%	-3,808,218	-10.9
Spanish or Spanish Creole	17,877	12.90%	1,932,321	24.60%	-1,914,444	-11.7
French Creole	15,494	11.20%	110,845	1.40%	-95,351	9.8

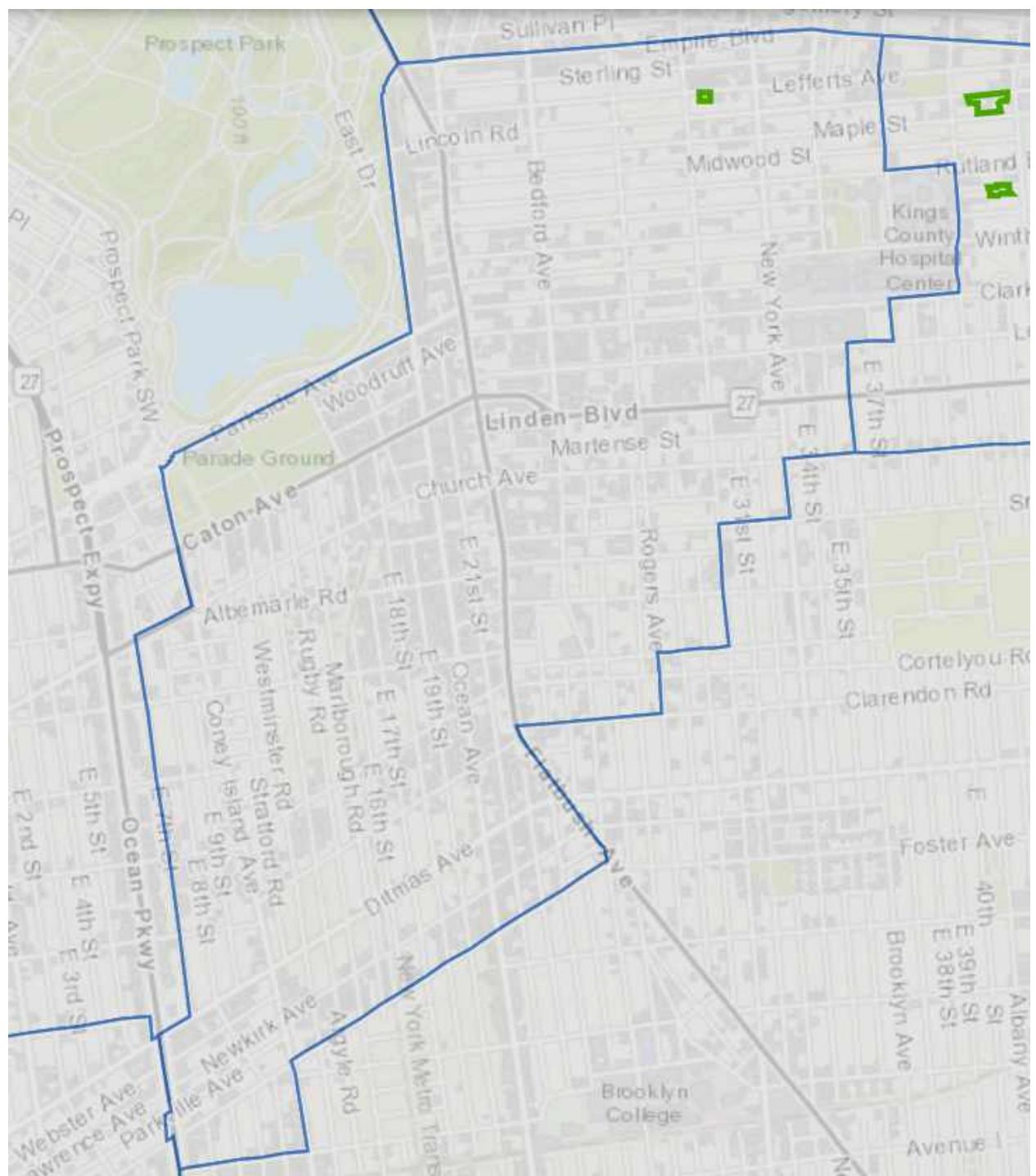
Housing

Rent Stabilized Units

There are 35019 rent stabilized units in the district.

[Here is data on the number of rent stabilized buildings broken down by CC district.](#)

NYCHA Developments



Name of development	Number of buildings	Number of units	Population
FENIMORE-LEFFERTS	18	36	100

News

Representatives

City Council

[Mathieu Eugene](#)

NYS Assembly

[D42 - Rodneyse Bichotte](#)

[D43 - Diana Richardson](#)

[D44 - Robert Carroll](#)

NYS Senate

[D17 - Simcha Felder](#)

[D18 - Zellnor Myrie](#)

[D19 - Kevin Parker](#)

US House of Representatives

D9 - [Yvette Clarke](#)

D10 - [Jerrold L. Nadler](#)

NYCHA

[Feinmore Lefferts Houses](#)

Non-Profits

CAMBA - [website](#) - [google news](#)

Equality for Flatbush - [website](#) - [Google news](#)

Flatbush Development Corporation - [website](#) - [Google News](#)

Hatian American Caucus - [website](#) - [Google News](#)

Parkside Empire | Flatbush Avenue Merchants Association - [website](#) - [google news](#)

West Indian American Day Carnival Association - [website](#) - [google news](#)

Voter Information

- **Estimated Win Number**
 - 8250 (I believe this is a fairly conservative number. This would represent approximately 10% of registered Democrats, which should be enough for a majority of likely voters assuming an estimate of 20% turnout. 8250 would represent significantly more votes than the incumbent received in the last two elections).
- **DSA Membership:**
 - 402 members
- **Registered Voters**
 - 81927 Registered Democrats
 - 104173 Registered Voters

[For City Council Districts](#)

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/EnrollmentSD.html>

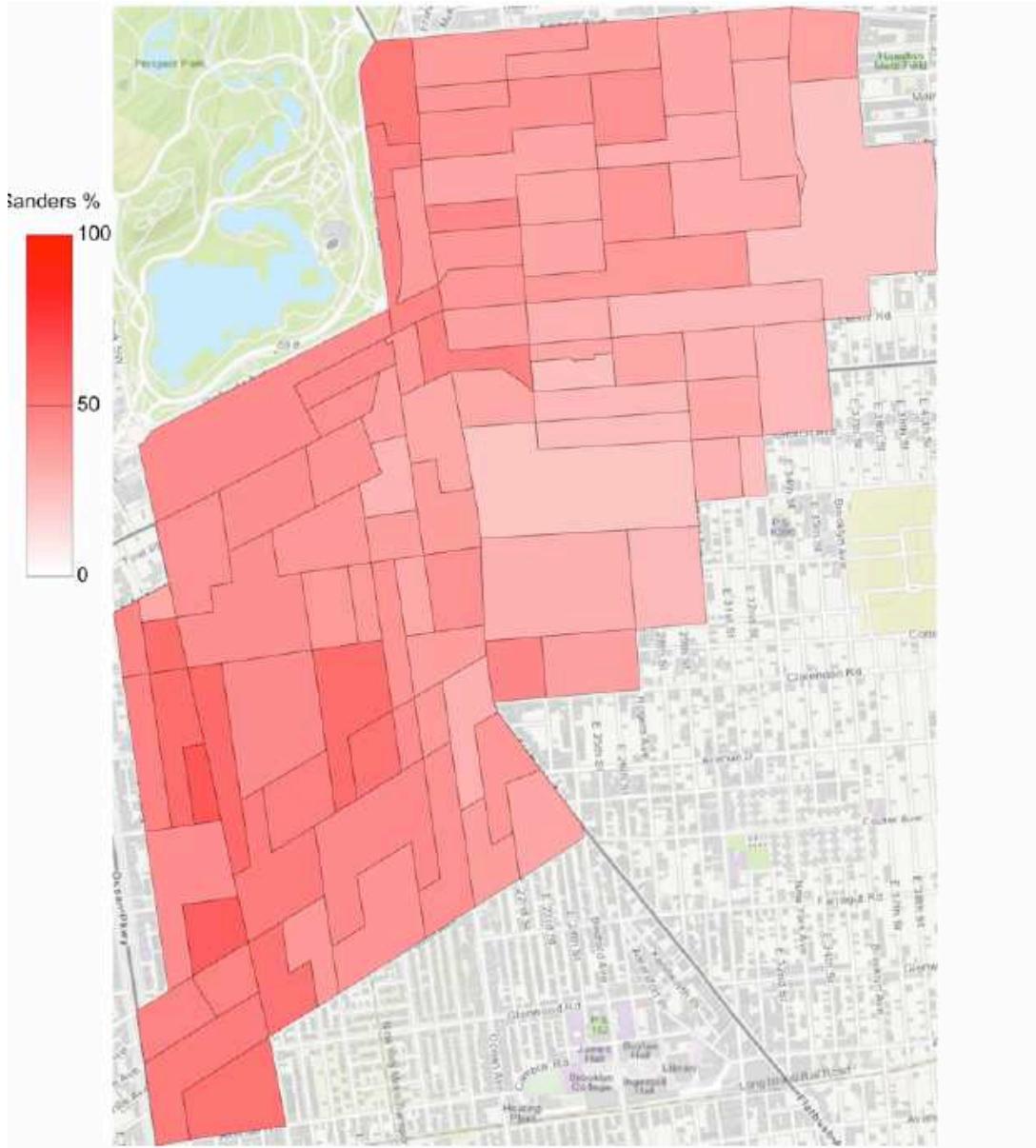
Via: <https://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/totals.shtml>

- **Voter Turnout**
 - 2017:
 - Mathieu Eugene (incumbent) won 5,560 votes out of 13,624 total voters (40.8%).
 - In 2017, there were 75188 registered Democrats and 95387 total registered voters.
 - This means that just over 18% of registered Democrats voted in the 2017 election and Eugene received the votes of just over 7% of registered democrats to win the election.
 - 2013
 - Matthieu Eugene (incumbent) won 6210 votes out of 12,974 total voters (47.9%)
 - In 2013, there were 65592 registered Democrats and 84261 total voters.
 - This means that just under 20% of registered Democrats voted in the 2013 election and Eugene received the votes of just over 9% of registered democrats to win the election.

Election Results (Progressive Candidates)

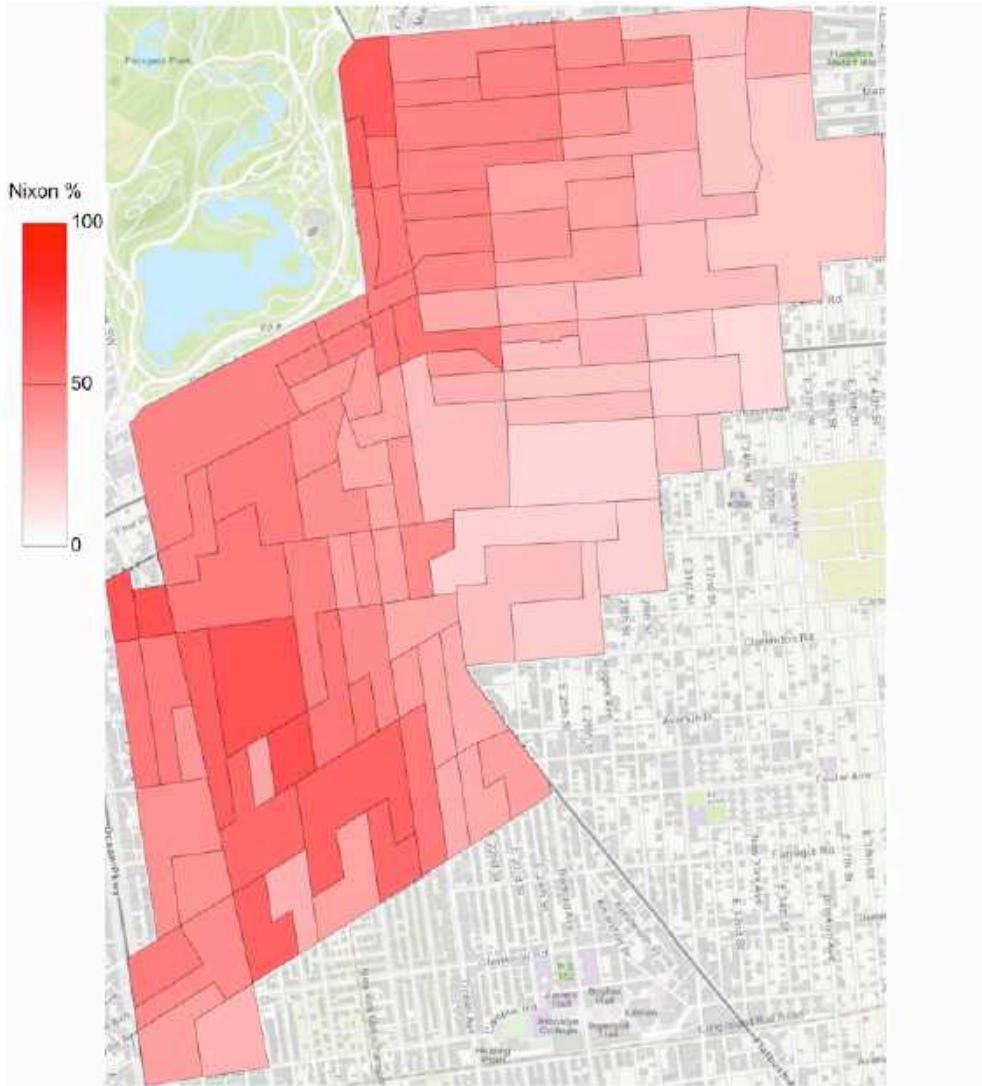
Presidential Primary 2016

	Sanders	Clinton	Total
District count	8,871	13,874	22,745
District %	39.0%	61.0%	100.0%
Kings County count	123,876	183,665	307,541
Kings County %	40.3%	59.7%	100.0%



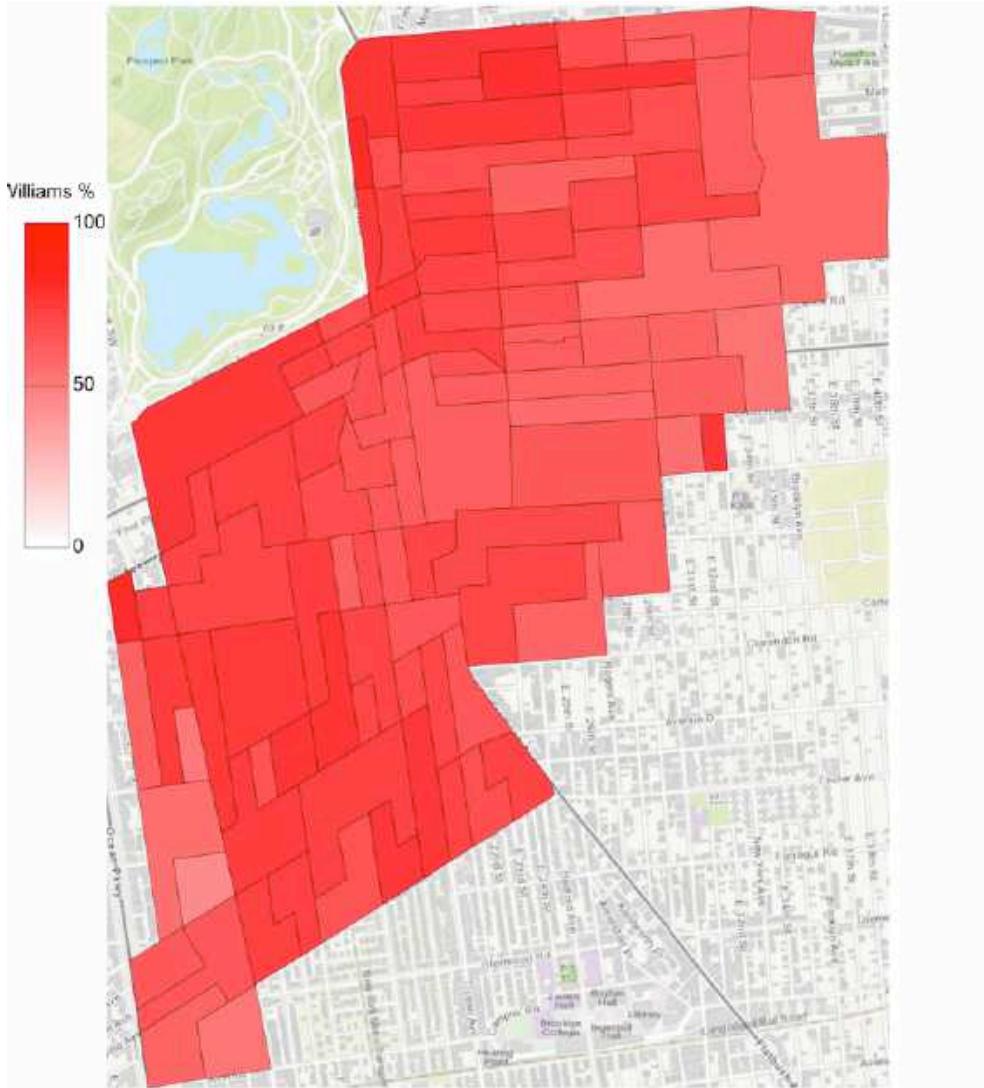
Governor Primary 2018

	Nixon	Cuomo	Write-in	Total
District count	9,615	14,493	57	24,165
District %	39.8%	60.0%	0.2%	100.0%
Kings County count	116,564	187,831	979	305,374
Kings County %	38.2%	61.5%	0.3%	100.0%



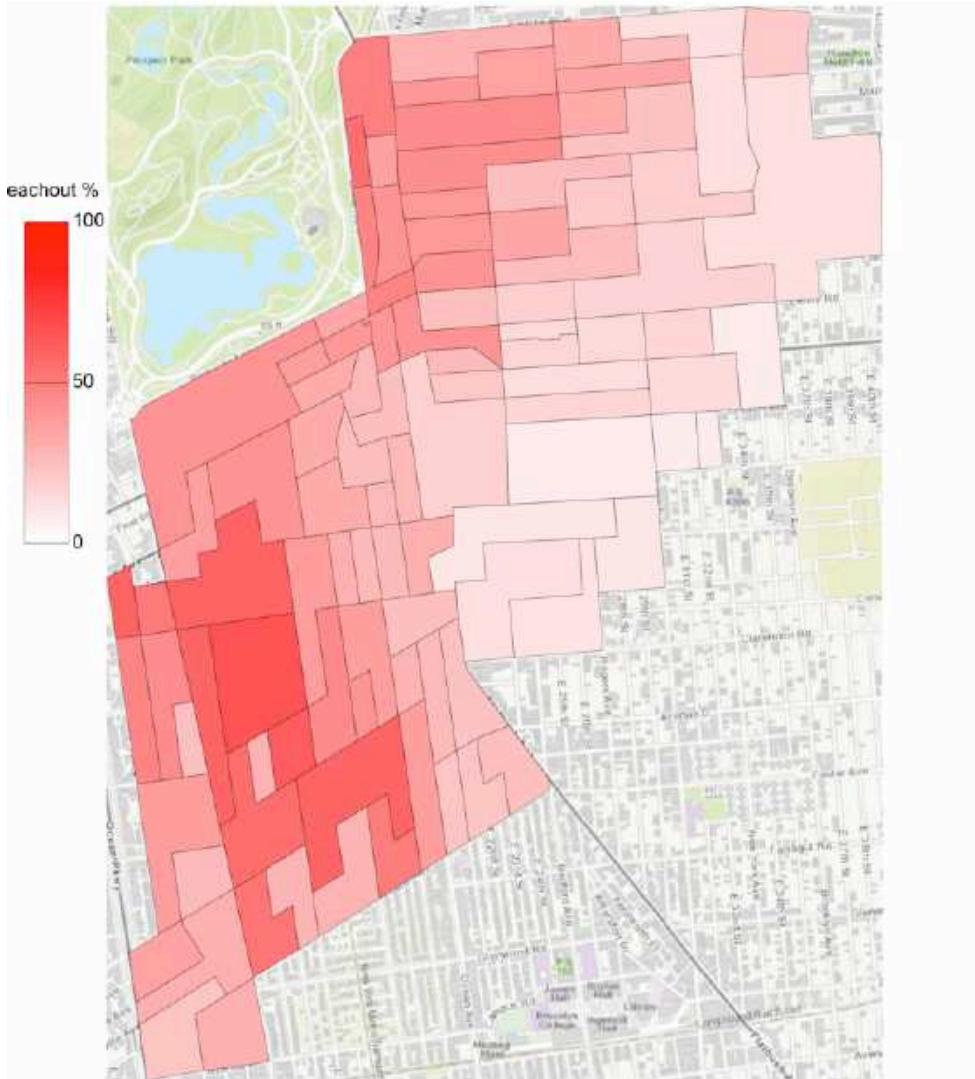
Lt. Governor Primary 2018

	Williams	Hochul	Write-in	Total
District count	15,390	6,979	21	22,390
District %	68.7%	31.2%	0.1%	100.0%
Kings County count	174,781	100,799	581	276,161
Kings County %	63.3%	36.5%	0.2%	100.0%



Attorney General 2018

	Teachout	James	Maloney	Write-in/Other	Total
District count	7,359	13,669	2,346	347	23,721
District %	31.0%	57.6%	9.9%	1.5%	100.0%
Kings County count	91,916	163,715	36,002	5,367	297,000
Kings County %	30.9%	55.1%	12.1%	1.8%	100.0%



Basic Power Mapping - Organizations, Electeds, Political Clubs

- Overlapping Electeds/Political Jurisdictions

NYS Assembly

[D42 - Rodneyse Bichotte](#)

[D43 - Diana Richardson](#)

[D44 - Robert Carroll](#)

NYS Senate

[D17 - Simcha Felder](#)

[D18 - Zellnor Myrie](#)

[D19 - Kevin Parker](#)

US House of Representatives

[D9 - Yvette Clarke](#)

[D10 - Jerrold L. Nadler](#)

- NYS Assembly District 42
 - Rodneyse Bichotte
 - Bio: Assemblymember Bichotte is the Brooklyn Democratic Party chair as of January 2020. She was the hand-picked successor of Frank Seddio, who held the position for the last 12 years. She seems to have broad support from the party establishment and local capitalists. Her legislative focus seems to be around women and minority owned businesses as well as immigrant rights.
 - Home club:
 - Caucus Memberships:
 - Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus
 - Legislative Women's Caucus
 - Task Force on Women's Issues
 - Alliances: Brooklyn Democratic Party establishment
- NYS Assembly District 43
 - Diana Richardson
 - Bio: Diana Richardson recently won re-election against Jesse Hamilton, the Democratic Party establishment candidate. She was encouraged to run initially by the Crown Heights Tenant Union and supported by the Working Families Party. She has feuded with Rodneyse Bichotte and Eric Adams.
 - Home club:
 - Caucus Memberships:
 - Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus
 - Legislative Women's Caucus

- Task Force on Women's Issues
- Alliances: Working Families Party, Crown Heights Tenant Union

- NYS Assembly District 44

- Robert Carroll
 - Bio: Carroll comes out of the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats (CBID) which were founded by his grandfather. He was supported by his predecessor for AD 44, James Brennan. Supports public power, seems to work well with DSA. Seems to be very concerned with voter rights and campaign finance.
 - Home club: Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats
 - Caucus Memberships:
 -
 - Alliances: Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats

- NYS Senate District 17

- Simcha Felder
 - Bio: Felder has also served as Deputy Comptroller for Budget, Accounting, Administration and Information Technology in the New York City Comptroller's Office. Simcha previously worked for the New York State Assembly and as a tax auditor for the New York City Department of Finance.
 - Home club: n/a
 - Alliances: Orthodox Jewish community organizations, Yeshiva organizations. City Council Members Chaim Deutsch and Kalman Yeger, and NYS Assemblymember Simcha Eichenstein

- NYS Senate District 18

- Zellnor Myrie
 - Bio: Myrie unseated former IDC Assemblyman Jesse Hamilton in 2018 and publicly supported ending qualified immunity for police officers, the HSTPA of 2019 and was a cosponsor of Gianaris' Cancel Rent [bill](#). Myrie pledged not to accept donations from the real estate industry, but in fact has accepted over \$10,000 in his short tenure.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Diana Richardson, Indivisible, No IDC, Working Families Party

- NYS Senate District 19

- Kevin Parker
 - Bio: After Parker [ran](#) and lost in a very crowded City Council field in 2001 he ran for a newly drawn State Senate seat and won with only 35% of the vote. Parker's tenure has been mired with angry outbursts and even assaults. He's been accused of punching a traffic cop in the face, assaulting a primary challenger, shoving a legislative staffer, and fracturing the finger of a New York Post reporter/ photographer. If any of these charges had led to a felony charge, Parker would have lost his senate seat. He drew his first primary since 2008 this year, but it appears his opponent, Josue Pierre, who is the cousin of Kings County Democratic Party Boss Rodneyese Bichotte, was pressured to drop out and run instead for a vacant City Council seat. Parker is the majority whip in the Democratic conference. He has plans to run for Comptroller in 2021.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Parker has been in office a long time and even with his outbursts has successfully built alliances with many elected officials at all levels of the democratic party. His alliance with Bichotte dimmed after [Farah Louis' City Council race](#).

- US House of Representatives
 - Yvette Clarke
 - Bio: Clark was elected to New York City Council in 2001. She succeeded her mother, former City Council member Una S. T. Clarke, who held the seat for more than a decade. In her 13 years in Congress, she hasn't made noise on anything in particular. A generally reliable Democratic vote, in 2010, she broke ranks and was one of 36 Democrats to vote against a Democrat-sponsored bill to enhance disclosure requirements for corporate spending in elections. She does support some of our policy goals such as Medicare for All, the Green New Deal, and abolishing ICE.
 - Home club: Progressive Democrats Political Association in Brooklyn (Clarke's mother is president)
 - Alliances: Hakeem Jeffries, Bill de Blasio
 - Jerrold L. Nadler
 - Bio: Nadler was a member of NY State Assembly from 1977 to 1992. He ran for Manhattan Borough President in 1985, and was defeated by David Dinkins. In 1989, he ran for NYC Comptroller and lost to Elizabeth Holtzman. Nadler was elected to congress in 1992. He is the chairman of the US House Committee on the Judiciary and a member of the CPC. He is considered one of the most liberal members of Congress. His legislative career has focused on civil rights, transportation/infrastructure, and 9/11 recovery. He is an ardent supporter of Israel and of providing US foreign aid to Israel. He is a cosponsor of M4A and signed the Green New Deal resolution.
 - Home club:
 - Alliances: Nydia Velazquez

- Community Boards

This is where Community Districts come in. There are a couple of places to look for key issues. Some CB's will list their issues on their websites, but if not, we can find this info by googling "brooklyn community board X" and searching recent news articles where the community board took a vote or got involved in a proposal.

- Brooklyn CB 14: <https://www.cb14brooklyn.com/neighborhoods/>
- Neighborhoods covered: Flatbush, Midwood, and parts of Kensington
- Major issues:
- Key figures: Chairman Ed Powell
- Brooklyn CB 9: <http://www.communitybrd9bklyn.org/>
- Neighborhoods covered: South Crown Heights, Prospect, Lefferts Gardens, Wingate and portions of North Flatbush
- Major issues: [Zoning drama](#)
- Key figures: TK
- Brooklyn CB 17: <http://cb17brooklyn.org/>
- Neighborhoods covered: East Flatbush, Northeast East Flatbush, Rugby, Farragut/Hyde Park, Remsen Village, Ditmas Village and Erasmus
- Major issues:
- Key figures: TK

● Political Clubs

A good way to find this information is by googling the council member for the district and reading up about organizations in articles pertaining to your district.

- Shirley Chisholm Democratic Club
 - URL: <https://www.facebook.com/scdcbkny/>
 - President: Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte chairs the club. Blondell Lighty is president.
- Ernest Skinner Political Association
 - URL: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/259172237537935/>
 - President: NA
 - Background: Originally launched by City Councilmember Jumaane Williams in 2012 as the P20 Political Club. Re-named for Ernest McD. Skinner in 2016.

United Political Association

- URL: NA
- President: Hassan Bakiriddin
- Background: Former Ernest Skinner Political Association (ESPA) President Hassan Bakiriddin, who along with several other members resigned from the club over an [endorsement meeting brouhaha](#), started the club in 2019. In the special election to replace Williams, Skinner and Williams backed Chandler-Waterman. However, when ESPA reportedly backed Xamayla Rose Rose as their consensus candidate, Skinner tried to weight the endorsement with proxy votes. This led to Bakiridden and several other members quitting the club, which eventually decided [not to endorse any candidate](#).

- Flatbush Jewish Council
 - URL: <https://www.flatbushjewish.com/>
 - President: NA
 - Background: Aligned with Bichotte.
- Bridge Multicultural and Advocacy Project
 - URL: <https://www.thebridgemcp.org/>
 - President: Mark Meyer Appel
 - Background: Aligned with Bichotte.

● Organizations

- [Flatbush Tenant Coalition](#). Building tenant power in Flatbush, East Flatbush, and South Crown Heights.
- [Equality for Flatbush](#). A Black/POC-led, grassroots organization which does police accountability, affordable housing and anti-gentrification/anti-displacement organizing in Flatbush, East Flatbush and Brooklyn-wide.
- [Little Haiti BK](#). The Office of NY State Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte, State Senator Kevin Parker, and Councilmember Jumaane Williams along with local organizations and community members led to the designation of an area of Flatbush as the Little Haiti Cultural & Business District.