



GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Andrea Gordillo
City Council District #	2
In which primary	Democratic
Age	35
Education	BA Northeastern, International Affairs; MA NYU Gallatin, Media and Culture
Current job, position, or occupation	Chair of Community Board 3
Previous jobs or positions	Listed in resume!

Campaign contact information

Website	www.andreagordillo.nyc
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INTRODUCTION

1. What are your top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected?

Promise 1: Housing and Affordability: The rent is completely unaffordable for the average New Yorker. If elected, I would fight for comprehensive solutions to make our housing stock accessible, sustainable, and secure. One policy I would continue to work toward is expanding Community Land Trusts, which would expand the availability of affordable housing options. I will work to build additional Supportive Housing and expand the Housing Voucher Programs so we can work towards ending homelessness.

Promise 2: Climate Justice and Resiliency: As a resident of the waterfront and member of LES Ready, our local disaster preparedness group, the threat of climate disasters like extreme storms, floods, and heat waves require us to act now before it displaces residents. I'll work with all levels of government to implement a Green New Deal for NYC through effective interventions that work to fight climate change, like improving our neighborhoods' infrastructure to make it more resilient, and make investments in green union jobs as technology changes and innovate our economy.

Promise 3: Cultural Vitality: I have worked tirelessly to bolster the cultural vitality of our city. In the city council, I'll work to make New York more livable by fostering our arts programs and creating opportunities for artists in our district to beautify our schools and communities.

2. If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would introduce? Why is that your top priority? If you are an incumbent, please also state what legislation you have passed which you are most proud of.

The landmark City of Yes (COYHO) legislation is a great step forward for our city, but we need to do more. Community Land Trusts (CLT) are a research backed solution that alleviate the underlying problems of housing speculations. As Chair of Community Board 3, my district has seen the largest growth of CLT's than any other area in the city and I will work to pass legislation that further directs COYHO's land use toward CLT's. To accomplish this, we need a more democratic and effective city council and I am committed to pushing forward Citizen Union's resolutions in my first term that work to achieve this, including but not limited to updates to legislative rules to give rank and file members strengthened power.

3. In your view, what are the major needs of your district's constituents?

I have been serving my district for over a decade, as a policy and cultural leader at various institutions like Coalition for a District Alternative (CODA), The Clemente Center, The Loaisida, and currently as the Chair of my neighborhood's Community Board 3. I have intently listened to my constituents' concerns, so I draw my view of their major needs from them.

A top issue is the need for a lower cost of living. The rent is too high and we do not have enough affordable housing. I have worked and will continue to work to preserve and expand our affordable housing options in District 2. We must ensure our new construction is deeply affordable, and that we make the necessary repairs to public housing, including the over 14,000 NYCHA units in my district.

Another major need my constituents have expressed is for increased safety. I am committed to advocating for and expanding research backed methods, including targeted crime reduction strategies

that uphold and respect civil rights, establishing task forces in high crime areas to better identify and address root causes, expanding community-based policing efforts, and expanding crisis response teams.

4. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running, and do you have any achievements or involvement in your neighborhood you are particularly proud of?

I have lived and served my district for over a decade, leading various institutions (listed in question 3), and organizing with the UAW local 2110 while as a graduate student at NYU.

One of my proudest accomplishments has been advancing the expansion of community land trusts (CLTs), a proven model that puts land back in the hands of the community and protects it from speculative developers. By championing this approach, I've helped create pathways for residents to have greater control over their housing, ensuring affordability for generations to come. Now, district 2 has the most growth of CLTs compared to all other areas in NYC.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I worked to ensure that artists of color—who are the heart and soul of our neighborhoods and were hit hard by it—had a voice in the City's recovery. Through coalition-building and relentless advocacy, I helped lead efforts to secure millions in funding for the cultural economy, rolling back devastating budget cuts to our District's critical cultural institutions.

I joined the legacy Downtown democratic institution, Coalition for a District Alternative, in 2018, where I served as President for nearly 5 years. I spearheaded initiatives to promote measures to advance affordable housing and day care, workers' rights, peace and justice issues, quality education, sustainable economic development, and other human services designed to equally serve all people. I convened countless forums to mobilize community residents in civic life, and promote a multiracial, multicultural vehicle for participation in political affairs.

5. What experience have you had with good government and reform issues? (e.g., voting and election reform, campaign finance, ethics, police accountability, government transparency). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

As Chairperson of Manhattan's Community Board 3, I have worked to make government more transparent and accountable by encouraging language and disability access, and creating welcoming, inclusive spaces for public engagement.

I have championed democratic decision-making as a Participatory Budgeting delegate, advocating for local initiatives that give residents a direct say in how public funds are allocated. I have been committed to reducing the influence of big money in politics by supporting grassroots efforts to reform campaign finance and empower small donors.

My leadership with the Coalition for a District Alternative (CoDA) focused on coalition building and community-driven governance, while my experience as a union organizer with UNITE HERE and the UAW reflects my commitment to advocating for workers' rights and ensuring that government policies prioritize working families.

I've also been a long time supporter of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), and have helped to mobilize RCV educational efforts in my district.

6. What do you think the role of the City Council is in city government this upcoming term?

We need to do all that we can to protect and expand a free and fair democracy, and that means ensuring the City Council has a strong check on mayoral power. Our current corrupt mayor has tried to consolidate his power so to combat this, all factions of the City Council need to work to pass reforms that expand democratic values, like the power of rank and file members. One way I will do this is by advocating to pass a resolution calling on the Charter Revision Committee to establish reforms, including establishing a process to remove the mayor for misconduct.

Our city governance is in a critical moment, and the City Council needs to rise to the moment. I am absolutely committed to pushing to improve our governing systems so that our checks and balances are

stronger and so that our government serves New Yorkers in the most transparent and accountable way.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

7. Do you support moving New York City’s elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you co-sponsor a Council Resolution supporting that measure?

Yes

Voter turnout in New York City elections is exceptionally low, as they are held “off-cycle” in odd-numbered years. To boost local voter turnout and reduce participation gaps, the Legislature passed and Governor Hochul signed a law that moves county and town elections to even-numbered years, and lawmakers are supporting a constitutional amendment that would do the same for city elections, including New York City’s. Citizens Union is [leading a coalition of groups advocating](#) to move New York City’s elections to even-numbered years, and the City Council is considering a [Resolution in support](#) of that shift.

8. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) has been a source of frustration for voters and candidates for years. The City Council appoints NYC BOE members and has the power to appoint commissioners who are committed to reform, but the most recent commissioners have been appointed behind closed doors. Do you commit to request a public hearing for BOE nominees, and to only vote for individuals who are publicly committed to reducing party-based patronage and supporting open hiring practices?

Yes

9. Do you support maintaining the use of Ranked Choice Voting in New York City’s elections?

Yes

Comments (optional)

I am a longtime advocate for ranked choice voting (RCV). RCV is essential to making our democracy more equitable. It has a range of benefits: it gives voters more choices at the ballot, helps encourage less likely candidates to run, encourages voter turnout, avoids the spoiler effect, and reduces negative campaign tactics.

10. New York City is one of the few cities that maintains a closed primary system, in which only registered party members can vote in the primary election. Do you believe New York City should shift to a form of completely open primaries, allowing all registered voters to vote in one primary where the top two candidates, regardless of party, move on to the general election?

Yes

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve elections and voting in New York City.**

See answer #5

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11. Individuals with business ties to city government and registered lobbyists can bypass their donation limits by “bundling” donations from other people. Do you support limiting bundling by people on the Doing Business with the City database?

Yes

12. Are you a supporter of the City’s public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to protecting the independence of the program and ensuring that the Campaign Finance Board has sufficient resources to run the program?

Yes

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve New York City’s campaign finance system.**

I am in full support of our city’s campaign finance system’s attempts to make campaigns more equitable. As a current candidate, I wouldn’t be able to garner the power I have through the grassroots if it weren’t for the city’s generous matching funds. We must protect and further expand it and I am committed to working to make campaigns work better for the public interest, not special ones.

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

13. The recent pattern of indictments and resignations surrounding City Hall has exposed serious ethical problems in City Government. Please describe how you will maintain the highest ethical standards in office.

I am absolutely committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in office. Our current mayoral administration has tarnished the reputation of our city’s government. We need to improve our governance structures and ensure that our constituents, not special interests, are represented in City Council and City Hall. I am running my race with a commitment to high ethical standards and accountability at the forefront. Money must be out of politics and I have publicly disavowed donations from real estate, police unions, and fossil fuel executives to show my commitment to this value.

If elected, I will do all that I can to maintain the highest ethical standards in office. Further, I will push for legislation that expands transparency, accountability, and high ethical standards in city government, like ensuring legislation the City Council remains a viable check on the mayor’s power.

14. Incoming public servants must sever ties and divest from companies or other interests that have business dealings with the City, but they are not required to recuse themselves when working on matters involving their former business partners, clients, employer, etc. Do you support forbidding public servants to work on matters relating to their former business partners, clients, employers, and other interests for a set period of time?

Yes

15. Some campaign consultants also work as lobbyists. Do you support restricting campaign consultants from lobbying the candidates they served for two years after the candidate won elected office?

Yes

16. Do you support moving lobbying oversight and enforcement from the City Clerk's Office to another agency charged with ethics issues, like the Conflicts of Interest Board?

Yes

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve ethics standards in New York City government.**

I will do all that I can to improve ethics standards in NYC government and will work with Citizens Union to push forward these efforts.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

17. Who do you think should have the final say on discipline in the New York Police Department? (i.e., Place the final decision with the Police Commissioner; the Civilian Complaint Review Board; the Mayor; the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety; or another individual or entity).

To ensure just discipline in the New York Police Department, we need to strengthen our oversight and accountability systems. These decisions cannot be made inside the agencies, and we must ensure the Civilian Complaint Review Board, which operates as an outside entity, has the final say.

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve police accountability in New York.**

I will push for NYPD accountability by advocating for and supporting legislation that requires more transparency in police misconduct investigations and disciplinary actions. Further, I will advocate for police training reforms that ensure police receive continuous training on de-escalation tactics, cultural competency, and handling individuals in mental health crises. Additionally, I will work toward improving audit effectiveness of policing programs and reforms.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

18. The Mayor currently has the power to block charter revision ballot questions (proposed by the City Council, other charter commissions, and citizen petitions) by establishing their own Charter Revision Commission. Do you support removing this Mayoral power?

Yes

19. Do you support allowing bills with strong support to go through the committee process and be put to a vote on the floor without needing the permission of the speaker?

Yes

20. Please provide your views about the New York City Council's "advice and consent" powers. In what cases, if any, should a mayor need the Council's approval for an appointment of a high ranking Mayoral official, such as an agency commissioner?

"Advice and consent" is a critical aspect of a fair democracy and I absolutely support the expansion of this power for the appointment of all high ranking mayoral officials. Further, we need to additionally expand the capacity of "advice and consent" so that it not only includes the newly added 20 agency commissioners, which were included last summer.

This check is necessary on the mayor's power, and ensures that the heads of major agencies are truly representing the public interests of New Yorkers, not just the mayoral administration or special interests.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please provide any other info you would like us to know about you and your candidacy.

High ethical standards, accountability, and transparency are pivotal to effective and honest governance. We cannot pass legislation to lower the cost of living, to increase our climate resiliency, or to address the root causes of crime if our inner systems are corrupted. I will be a strong ally to Citizens Union and am committed to sponsoring and advocating for your key policies and objectives in the City Council. Research should be leading our policies, and I am committed to honest and accountable legislation.