



GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Collin L. Thompson
City Council District #	5
In which primary	Democratic
Age	31
Education	MS, Education   Johns Hopkins University Digital Learning and Educational Technology BA, Political Science   The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Other positions or offices

First time candidate

Previous jobs or positions

Co-founder - Positive Love. (HIV/AIDS empowerment project; Tanzania)  
National Teaching Fellowship - AmeriCorps  
Founding History Teacher, Founding Dean - Emblaze Academy  
History Department Instructional Leader - Atmosphere Academy  
Educational Consultant - Education Elements  
Principal - The Learning Center (federal program for unaccompanied refugee children)

Campaign contact information

Website	collinfornyc.com
X	<a href="https://x.com/collinfornyc">https://x.com/collinfornyc</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/collinfornyc/">https://www.instagram.com/collinfornyc/</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/collinfornyc/">https://www.facebook.com/collinfornyc/</a>
Other social media platforms	TikTok: @collinfornyc_

# INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: Reimagine Education: I'll lead on ending NYC's testing obsession by advancing performance-based assessments, expanding vocational training, embedding emotional intelligence into curricula, and raising the starting salary for teachers to \$108,000 to match public nurses.

Promise 2: Overhaul Public Safety and Mental Health Response: I'll work to establish a 24/7 civilian-led mental health emergency agency and overhaul addiction and crisis care, while holding repeat criminal offenders accountable.

Promise 3: Cut Bureaucracy to Deliver Affordability and Livability: I'll work to streamline small business permits, launch a Renter's Bill of Rights, and convert broken shelters into safe, service-rich housing hubs. I'll advocate returning our subways and buses to local control to make transit safer, cleaner, and reliable.

## 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.

I will introduce legislation to create a 24/7 citywide mental health response agency — separate from the NYPD — staffed with mental health professionals trained to de-escalate crises, connect people to long-term care, and reduce harm. For far too long, we've criminalized mental illness. This bill will save lives, reduce strain on our jails and ERs, and restore safety and dignity to our streets.

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

Constituents are asking for something simple: a city that works again, and a representative who shows up when it doesn't. In District 5, that means reestablishing a responsive, service-driven Council office that returns calls, follows up, and helps residents cut through city bureaucracy. It also means safer streets, less trash, accessible transit, real mental health support, and a local economy where small businesses can survive. At its core, it's about restoring trust — and that starts with basic responsiveness and results.

## 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?

For more than six years, I have served our community as a volunteer at Community of Hope, which provides outreach to homeless individuals and those in need. I am particularly proud of our volunteer team's commitment to serving the UES without cease during the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic, including March and April of 2020, to ensure that homeless individuals and those in need in our community had the resources and nutrition they needed during that difficult time.

## 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 an education consultant with Education Elements, I served as the strategic advisor for public school districts across the country — from large urban districts, Atlanta Public Schools, to rural districts in upstate New York — to reimagine how large public institutions can function more equitably, transparently, and effectively. I collaborated directly with public school district superintendents to develop and execute responsive strategic plans that prioritized real outcomes over bureaucracy, and coached leadership teams

to build cultures rooted in data, collaboration, and community engagement. These weren't abstract plans — they were about transforming how public institutions serve people. I'll bring the same discipline and urgency to City Hall.

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

The Council must lead — not follow. That means acting as a check on unchecked power, reining in wasteful spending, and legislating boldly on issues like education reform, mental health response, affordable housing, and transit control. New Yorkers are tired of political theater — they want a government that works again.

The New York City Council is the legislative body for one of the most powerful cities in the world, and it can lead the way on many of the great issues facing not only our city, but also lay out a blueprint for how cities across the country can implement meaningful government reform and ensure our city's agencies — and the services they provide — are delivering the results all New Yorkers deserve.

**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.

**Comments (optional)**

Higher turnout means stronger democracy. Aligning with state and federal election cycles can engage more voters, particularly low-income and younger New Yorkers.

**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

**Comments (optional)**

New Yorkers deserve election officials chosen through transparent, public processes.

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

Yes

**Comments (optional)**

Yes, though I do think we might need to revisit RCV and make adjustments. For example, in our 2021 Democratic mayoral primary, about 15% of voters' ballots were exhausted (became inactive) by the final round of counting. While the ultimate winner, Eric Adams, did surpass 50% among remaining ballots, his 50.4% final-round share corresponded to only around 43% of all ballots cast, due to that exhaustion rate.

**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?**

No

**Comments (optional)**

While I am absolutely opposed to our closed primary system, I most favor a primary system that allows voters to select which primary they would like to vote in when they vote. I am also in favor of making local elections nonpartisan.

**\* 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.**

As a first-time grassroots candidate, I have found the entire process to be "inside baseball," with many technical rules that favor incumbents. I also saw first-hand how many New Yorkers are even aware of the rules and regulations that govern processes like petitioning. If elected, I would strongly advocate for reforms that do not favor established incumbents, and information campaigns to ensure candidates and voters alike have equal and adequate information.

**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'm proud to run a grassroots campaign through NYC's public matching system. It levels the playing field

and reduces the influence of big money. I'll defend and expand it — including making it easier for first-time candidates to qualify. I would also sponsor legislation that holds the City Council to the same rules it has applied to they Mayor's office by expanding restrictions on lobbying including a two-year ban on lobbying for top aides. In fact, I would support legislation to completely ban lobbying at the city level entirely.

## 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.**

One issue I am most passionate about is campaign finance reform. I deeply believe that special interest PAC and lobbyist influence has caused devastating damage to city, state, and federal governments. I pledge not to accept a single penny of special interest money in this campaign or in any future campaigns. I'll lead with radical transparency: publishing my schedule and recusing myself from any potential conflicts. A member of the City Council works for the people, and constituents deserve to know what my day looks like — just as any other employer would. I'll support expanding the COIB's power and require that all discretionary funds and land use negotiations be documented and accessible to the public.

**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

**Comments (optional)**

In fact, I support an outright ban on campaign consultants from lobbying the candidates they served.

**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

**Comments (optional)**

Ethics enforcement belongs with an agency designed to do it.

**\* 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.**

Elected office is a public service. Unfortunately, we have veered from that intention — in no small part because of financial influence. As mentioned in my responses above, I believe in radical transparency and eliminating outside and outsized financial influence as a tool to manipulate our elections and our elected



officials. I will hold myself to these standards whether the law requires me to or not.

## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

**\* 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 support increasing transparency and requiring the NYPD to regularly report how disciplinary outcomes align with public expectations. I'll push for stronger early-warning systems, clearer disciplinary standards, and real Council oversight — not just after scandals, but as a matter of routine. Reform must be done thoughtfully, ensuring due process for officers and lasting accountability for misconduct. New York deserves a disciplinary system that's impartial, fair, and trusted by both civilians and those working to protect us.

## 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

**Comments (optional)**

One person should not have veto power over New Yorkers' right to vote on how their government functions. I support removing this undemocratic mayoral override.

**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

**Comments (optional)**

Yes. If a majority of Council Members back a bill, it should get a hearing and vote. The Speaker should facilitate the democratic process, not bottleneck it.

**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?**

I support expanding the Council's power to review and approve key mayoral appointments — especially agency heads like NYPD, DOE, and HPD. These leaders wield huge influence, and public vetting ensures they serve the city, not political allies.

**\* In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve the system of checks and balances in New York.**

I plan to help restore real checks and balances by working to end the Council Speaker's gatekeeping power over legislation, advocating for public hearings for key appointments, and supporting reforms to eliminate the Mayor's ability to override charter revisions by creating a competing commission. I'll also push for full transparency in how discretionary funds and land use deals are made — no more backroom agreements. City government should work for the public, not protect itself from the public.

## ADDITIONAL INFO