



GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Erycka Montoya
City Council District #	21
In which primary	<div>Democratic</div> <div>Working Families</div>
Current job, position, or occupation	Associate Deputy Director in the Intergovernmental Affairs Division at the New York City Council

Campaign contact information

Website	eryckamontoya.com
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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: Education & Childcare: As a mother and former PTA president, I understand the importance of high-quality, affordable childcare and education. I will work to close the gap in early childhood education, push for school funding, and advocate for language accessibility and community engagement in education processes.

Promise 2: Community Safety & Clean Streets: Community safety requires addressing the true drivers of crime, including housing instability, lack of healthcare access, and social service inequities. I commit to fostering safer communities by prioritizing restorative justice, mental health services, and community-driven solutions over carceral measures. We must create an infrastructure that supports public health, education, and opportunities, so our newly thriving neighborhoods are safe. Additionally, our neighborhoods deserve clean streets, welcoming parks, and safe public spaces. I will push for increased sanitation funding, especially for additional pickups on business corridors, and ensure enforcement for businesses and residential tenants who repeatedly ignore sanitation regulations.

Promise 3: Housing and Affordability: I've been a tenant my whole life - just like most of our wage-earning worker district. Ensuring tenants are protected is a priority for me. I live in LeFrak City, which currently has the highest rate of evictions and a lawsuit seeking to make it easier to evict tenants. This reflects the experience and concern of many New York City families. Our workers must have stable living situations and access to resources and public spaces to build sustainable and thriving lives, families, 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.**

My top priority is addressing the affordability crisis that New Yorkers are facing. Therefore, my legislative priorities will focus on increasing the stock of affordable housing and securing more funding for housing support services, including streamlining the processing of housing applications.

Additionally, my district is home to many working-class families, many of whom hold multiple jobs. A significant portion of these jobs are in the gig economy—such as delivery workers, independent contractors, domestic workers, and street vendors. To support these constituents, we need to extend critical programs like paid family leave, sick leave, and other forms of economic support.

Many of these residents face extreme economic pressures, often living paycheck to paycheck, with income fluctuating drastically. We must relieve the financial strain on our most vulnerable workers and stabilize those in the most precarious situations.

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

The priorities for District 21 constituents include enhancing community safety and sanitation, expanding affordable housing, increasing tenant protections, lowering living costs, ensuring affordable childcare, investing in quality education and afterschool programming, and protecting our immigrant neighbors, especially as a large portion of my district consists of undocumented or mixed-status families. With the second Trump Administration being even more anti-immigrant than the last, there needs to be a focused campaign to disseminate people's rights when confronted by ICE, as well as a Right to Counsel program for immigration proceedings, similar to the one we have for Housing Court. Additionally, there is a critical need for improved sanitation, including extra pickups on business corridors and heightened enforcement for businesses and tenants who repeatedly disregard sanitation regulations. Finally, like throughout the city, the lack of affordable housing remains a pressing issue.

**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 in Corona all my life and have spent the last 35 years in LeFrak City. I have been a community organizer and activist my entire career, fighting for our community's fair share of resources and services. During the pandemic, after volunteering with a local elected official in distributing food to neighbors and seeing the great need in my community, I tapped into the Mutual Aid network in NYC. I started delivering food directly to my neighbors to ensure that fresh food was accessible to all during such intense times. This was the start of a continuous mutual aid effort, where my community came together and brought comfort and security to folks in my neighborhood, which was the pandemic's epicenter.

**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 a staffer in the Intergovernmental Relations Office at the City Council, government transparency has been a big focus of my work, as there is no shortage of bureaucracy and red tape among the various levels of government that all come together here in New York City.

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

In this country, the founders envisioned an "advice and consent" role for the legislative branch, not just in Washington, D.C., but in every state capital. All around the nation, we are seeing the consequences of having too much authority vested in the hands of one individual. The City Council will be crucial in making sure that the next mayor makes the right choices for the city, that they have the right team advising them, and that their choices are opposed whenever their priorities are misaligned with the people's needs.

## **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)**

Yes. We must do everything we can to get closer to full democratic participation in New York City and New York state. We have already tried passing a law to ensure elections are held in even-numbered years, and Republicans managed to strike that down. Our only option is to try a constitutional amendment.

**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)**

Transparency in hiring is key, no matter the role or where. The BOE must be composed of members who aim to reduce party-based patronage and have nothing to hide.

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

Yes

**Comments (optional)**

Absolutely. Ranked Choice Voting has been a tremendous democratic boon for New York and it must be maintained. It is a tool that ensures people don't have to vote for the option they like the least but for the option(s) they like the most.

**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

**Comments (optional)**

I support all measures that get us closer to full participatory democracy. People should not be constrained in who they can vote for just because they are affiliated with one party or another. If the state wants to choose two Democrats to advance to a final round, they should have that choice. The government should not tell the people who they can or cannot vote for.

**\* 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.**

I have extensive civic engagement experience in multiple languages, and have worked in my community for over 20 years to ensure that my neighbors have access to participate in our democratic system.

**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

**Comments (optional)**

I am all for making the government more transparent and less corrupt. In an era in which both the federal government and our state governments are being infiltrated by oligarchical actors with deep pockets, we must limit money’s influence on politics, especially local politics.

**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

**Comments (optional)**

I am a participant in the matching funds program and without it, many grassroots movements and candidates like me would not survive. This program makes it possible for New Yorkers who want to represent their communities but do not come from money or political dynasties to run for office. We need resources for this program, and if elected, I will ensure it is

protected so that other grassroots candidates can run on an even playing field.

# 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.**

As a former staffer in the City Council, I know how to conduct myself in an ethical way, and I will use what I have learned in the expectations I will have for myself and my staff. I will use our office to serve as an example on how city government should work and operate in all capacities, most importantly being ethical and avoiding conflicts of interest. The constituents deserve nothing less. They have constantly been underrepresented, ignored, and stolen from. This changes when my team and I are able to get in office and deliver for our communities. I will lead an office that is responsive, present communicative, and transparent.

**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

Comments (optional)

We only need to look at the scandals our leaders have been involved in to see that we need change. If an elected official works for the government at any level, they should not work on matters in which they are personally invested and will receive monetary gain.

**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)

Yes. Again, we must be transparent and ethical. I employ consultants, and I have worked for the City Council. I have firsthand knowledge of the revolving door conundrum. We must constrain lobbyists because many exploit their political connections to curry political favors.

**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)

Yes. The City Clerk's Office is not equipped to deal with these



issues. The Conflicts of Interest Board (or another agency) needs the funding and expertise to take these matters seriously. We must standardize our ethics processes and deal with any cases that may arise efficiently and transparently.

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).

I believe the CCRB, the group that actually investigates alleged misconduct, should have the authority to make the final disciplinary decision. For far too long, we have seen the NYPD Commissioner wholly disregard the findings of the CCRB, and keep crooked cops on the job. This has to end.

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)

Yes. The executive branch, in City Hall and Washington D.C., has too much power. We must return that power to the legislative branch.

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. Partisan politics should not get in the way of getting things done. If a bill has a clear majority and can get the necessary votes without the speaker's permission, then their permission should be bypassed.

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?

It is vitally important that we strengthen safeguards of democracy in our city. We can see all across our country what happens when unfettered power is given to those who view executive authority as a bludgeon for power and profit.

I fully support expanding the Council's Advice and Consent authority, especially for critical city agency commissioner position and other appointees whose day to day decisions and responsibilities impact the lives of New Yorkers. We must fight back against graft and corruption bring light to appointments so ensure the highest standards of ethical behavior and professionalism.

The mayor and the entire executive branch must always be in a position of accountability to the people and the elected representatives of the people in the Council.

# ADDITIONAL INFO