



GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Frank Morano
City Council District #	51
In which primary	Republican
Age	40
Education	BA and additional credits towards an MPA.
Current job, position, or occupation	Radio Talk show host

Other positions or offices

Community Board Member
Leader in the NYS Independence Party and Reform Party

Previous jobs or positions

longtime media personality
part time staffer to Councilman Joe Borelli

Campaign contact information

Website	moranoforcouncil.com
X	frankmorano
Instagram	moranoradio
Facebook	facebook.com/moranofan
Other social media platforms	youtube.com/moranovision

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: Public Safety & Quality of Life I will prioritize making Staten Island safer by implementing Neighborhood Patrol Partnerships, working with civic groups and retired police officers to enhance community policing without additional taxpayer burden. I will also push for a Rapid Response Property Crime Task Force to tackle rising theft and burglaries, ensuring that Staten Islanders feel secure in their homes and businesses. Additionally, I will champion initiatives like Safe Streets, Safe Parks, improving public spaces with LED lighting, cameras, and increased patrols to deter crime and encourage family-friendly use.

Promise 2: Improving Democracy & Community Engagement I will work to end the costly matching funds program and replace it with a Democracy Voucher system (similar to Seattle), ensuring fairer and less wasteful campaign financing. I will also push for non-partisan municipal elections and ranked-choice voting to empower voters to choose candidates based on merit rather than party affiliation. Additionally, I will advocate for Community Board Empowerment, giving local boards real decision-making power, and a stronger voice in shaping Staten Island's future.

Promise 3: Affordability & Economic Fairness I will fight to keep Staten Island affordable by advocating for a Tax Freeze for Senior Homeowners and municipal retirees, allowing long-time residents to stay in their homes without fear of skyrocketing property taxes. I will also work to establish a NYC Citizen Utility Board to protect Staten Islanders from unfair rate hikes and ensure transparency in utility billing. Finally, I will push for property tax reform, capping annual property tax growth and requiring a supermajority vote in the City Council before any tax increase is approved.

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.

First Piece of Legislation:

If elected, the first piece of legislation I would introduce would mandate that Battery Energy Storage Sites (BESS) be located only in industrial zones, ensuring they are kept away from residential communities, schools, and small businesses.

Why is this my top priority?

Right now, Staten Islanders are being treated like guinea pigs in an experiment that prioritizes energy companies' profits over public safety. We've seen communities blindsided by these projects—getting a few bottles of water and a letter on their doorstep instead of a real say in what gets built next to their homes. Fires, toxic emissions, and emergency response concerns make it clear: these facilities do not belong in

our neighborhoods.

New York City should be embracing clean energy, but not at the expense of common sense safety measures. My legislation would ensure that any BESS project must be located in industrial areas only—not next to homes, playgrounds, or mom-and-pop shops.

This is about public safety, transparency, and fairness, and I will fight to make sure Staten Islanders have a real voice in what happens in their own backyards.

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

The people of this district want safe streets, a livable city, and a government that actually listens to them. Right now, too many feel ignored while City Hall prioritizes ideology over common sense.

Public Safety: Crime, quality-of-life issues, and lawlessness are top concerns. We need real consequences for criminals, more support for our police, and an end to the revolving-door justice policies that make our neighborhoods less safe.

Infrastructure & Overdevelopment: Staten Islanders are tired of endless construction, crumbling roads, and traffic nightmares. We need real infrastructure investment, not just more high-rises and congestion. Development must be balanced and respect the character of our communities.

Education & Parental Rights: Parents deserve more say in their children's education, and we must restore discipline and accountability in our schools. That includes removing distractions like cell phones and ensuring schools focus on teaching, not activism.

Cost of Living & Small Business Survival: The rising cost of everything—from property taxes to groceries—makes it harder for families to stay in New York. We need to cut wasteful spending, lower taxes, and support small businesses instead of drowning them in red tape.

Government Transparency & Accountability: People are sick of backroom deals and insiders making decisions behind closed doors. Whether it's battery storage sites being snuck into neighborhoods or funding being wasted on pet projects, Staten Islanders deserve a government that works for them—not against them.

This district's needs are clear: Safer streets. Smarter development. Lower costs. Better schools. A government that listens. That's what I'll fight for every day.

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've lived in the district my whole life. As a Community Board Member, I'm proud of the fact that I've gotten Community Board 3 back to in-person meetings for the first time in over 4 years. I'm also proud that as a leader in the Reform Party, we became the first party to change our rules to allow unaffiliated voters to vote in party primaries. I'm also proud to have worked with Councilman Borelli to secure funding for a school in Great Kills, which serves severely handicapped people.

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.

Almost the entirety of my life and career in politics has been geared towards the cause of electoral reform. Every political party I've been a part of prior to this one (e.g. Independence, Reform and SAM) has had a primary focus on political and electoral reform issues. I've testified before every Charter Revision Commission since 2002 on the issue(s) of Non-Partisan Elections, Ranked Choice Voting and Proportional Representation. All of that testimony is public record. Some of which can be viewed here:

<https://frankmorano.medium.com/charter-revision-commission-testimony-from-frank-morano-6615844d700d>. I've been a forceful advocate of issues like ranked choice voting on the radio for many years and have participated in many debates on the subject. As a citizen, my most frequent communications with elected officials have been on the issues of electoral reform. I've been a consistent crusader against gerrymandering and in favor of term limits. In 2007, I sued the City Council when they

weren't swearing in my duly elected Councilmember. In 2015, I sued the Governor because he refused to call a special election for a vacant Congressional seat. In 2017, I worked hard throughout the state with Bill Samuels and his group, Effective NY, in favor of a constitutional convention. In general, electoral reform is the issue that has been driving my political activism.

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

The City Council must focus on restoring public safety, holding city agencies accountable, and making life more affordable for New Yorkers.

Public Safety First: The Council needs to stop playing politics with policing. That means supporting the NYPD, pushing back on dangerous policies that let criminals roam free, and making sure quality-of-life crimes—like shoplifting, turnstile jumping, and open drug use—are enforced.

Fiscal Responsibility & Oversight: The Council must be a check on reckless spending. The budget needs to be lean, focused on essential services, and free from waste. Taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability, not higher taxes to fund failed programs.

Fixing the Migrant Crisis: The city is out of control when it comes to spending billions on migrant housing while ignoring the needs of actual New Yorkers. The Council must end the blank-check approach to migrant shelters, and push for real solutions.

Protecting Neighborhoods & Small Businesses: From out-of-control development to anti-business regulations, the Council needs to put New Yorkers first. That means ensuring development is done responsibly, cutting red tape for small businesses, and not force policies on neighborhoods without community input.

Restoring Common Sense & Trust in Government: New Yorkers have lost faith in local government. The Council should focus on practical, bipartisan solutions—not ideological grandstanding. That means listening to constituents and making sure government works for the people—not the other way around.

The bottom line? The City Council’s job isn’t to serve special interests or political agendas—it’s to protect public safety, keep the city affordable, and put New Yorkers first.

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?

No

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)

When voters go to the polls, I want them focused on municipal issues—not lost in the noise of presidential or gubernatorial races. City elections should be about local concerns like crime, education, housing, and public services, not overshadowed by national political battles. We clearly have a voter turnout problem, but I believe the way to fix that is through reforms like non-partisan elections or Proportional Representation, which would encourage more competitive races and give voters more meaningful choices. Simply shifting elections to even-numbered years won’t solve the

underlying issue—it'll just make it harder for local issues to get the attention they deserve.

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)

I think public hearings for BOE nominees is a good thing, but I think we've seen some very positive movement at the Board of Elections. Whereas a scandal a week was the norm, we largely haven't seen any major mishaps at the NYC Board of Elections in four years. I think this is primarily due to the hiring of more competent leadership. I think in general the hiring of competent, independent staff should be the priority, so the agency isn't treated as a dumping ground or patronage mill. Some of the reforms I'd like to see happen include regular management and ethics training for certain BOE staffers. So much of the BOE staff work is geared towards the petition process. I'd like to see NYC follow the lead of other states and cities and implement a fee based ballot access system as an alternative to petitions. That would end the Board's Roman gladiator type role in determining which candidacies live or die. Non-partisan administration or voices for independents or minority parties on the Board should also be considered.

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

Yes

Comments (optional)

I've been a consistent supporter of ranked choice voting for many years. I would like to see it expanded to the general election.

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 selected yes, but I really support a system of non-partisan elections with ranked choice voting (similar to the special election I'm in now). One of the mistakes that people tend to make is conflating the issues of open primaries and non-partisan elections. As Richard Winger of Ballot Access News has pointed out, The US Supreme Court has defined different types of primaries in a few of their decisions. Also there are political science textbooks that define each one. They all agree on definitions. An "open primary" is a type of partisan primary in which each party has its own primary ballot and its own nominees, but on primary day any voter can choose any party's primary ballot. Most southern states have open primaries. Typically open primary states have registration forms that don't ask the voter to choose a party. For example, Texas has open primaries. The voter registration form does not ask the applicant to choose a party. Therefore, George W. Bush is not a registered Republican, because he lives in Texas and there are no registered Republicans, or Democrats, in Texas. A nonpartisan election is one in which parties are not involved. Instead, individuals run against each other purely as individuals. Party labels are not on the ballot. "Open primary" has nothing in common with "nonpartisan election." I would support non-partisan elections and/or support a Charter Revision Commission tasked with exploring NYC returning to PR, which elected the City Council for 12 years in the 30s and 40s and which was recently used in Community School Board Elections.

*** 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 would introduce legislation to make ranked choice voting the norm for all municipal elections. I would ask the Mayor to appoint a Charter Revision Commission, which would be a 2 year Commission, specifically tasked with putting electoral reform issues on the ballot. In the absence of Mayoral action, I would seek to implement a Council led Commission.

I would seek to have a portion of the Community Board members directly appointed by Council Members, rather than have them be recommended by the Council and appointed by the Mayor. I think direct election of some CB members (in nonpartisan elections) should also be considered. This would not only diversify the pool of CB members, but focus the public's attention more on the role of the Community Board.

I would use the bully pulpit of my office to get the state legislature to put the idea of a constitutional convention on the ballot prior to 2037, with prohibitions on sitting legislators serving as delegates.

I would introduce legislation expanding the use of initiative and referendum in NYC and use the bully pulpit of my office to fight for that expansion on a state level.

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?

No

Comments (optional)

No, I do not support the City’s public campaign matching funds program in its current form. While it was intended to make elections more competitive and reduce the influence of special interests, in practice, it has become a costly, bureaucratic mess that benefits political insiders rather than ordinary New Yorkers. The 8-to-1 matching system has not meaningfully diminished the role of special interests, but it has created a cottage industry for political operatives and lawyers who know how to game the system. Meanwhile, the Campaign Finance Board (CFB) puts honest campaigns through the wringer, forcing them to waste valuable resources on compliance instead of voter outreach—while failing to rein in truly shady campaigns until it’s too late. A far better alternative would be something like Seattle’s Democracy Vouchers program, which actually empowers voters directly rather than funneling public money through a flawed system. If we truly want fairer, more competitive elections, we need real reform—not just throwing more money at a broken program.

*** 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.**

If I'm elected, I will be the City Council's #1 champion of political and electoral reform. We may not always agree, but my door will always be open. I've enjoyed my radio conversations with folks like Dick Dadey, Randy Mastro and Betsy Gotbaum over the years. I'm frequently one of only a few dozen New Yorkers testifying at Charter Revision Commission meetings, alongside a rep from Citizen Union and I've always had admiration for the mission of Citizen Union going back to its founding. I'd be honored to carry the Citizen Union banner, but even if you don't endorse me, I'm still going to be energetically focused on the issue of electoral reform.

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.

Restoring trust in city government starts with leading by example. I will hold myself and my staff to the highest ethical standards by ensuring full transparency, strict adherence to all ethics rules, and an unwavering commitment to serving the public—not political insiders or special interests.

I will reject pay-to-play politics, refuse backroom deals, and push for stronger oversight to prevent corruption before it happens. Additionally, I support greater independent enforcement of ethics laws to ensure that misconduct is dealt with swiftly and fairly, rather than after the damage is already done.

New Yorkers deserve honest, accountable leadership, and I will work every day to make sure that’s exactly what they get.

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.**

In the 2019 Charter Revision Commission, I testified in favor of expanding the length of time that elected officials would be prohibited from lobbying.

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).

The Police Commissioner should have the final say on discipline within the NYPD. As the individual responsible for leading the department, setting its policies, and ensuring public safety, the Commissioner must also have the authority to hold officers accountable.

That said, transparency and fairness are essential. Civilian oversight, including input from the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and other oversight bodies, plays a crucial role in investigating misconduct and recommending disciplinary actions. However, the final decision must rest with the Commissioner, who is ultimately responsible for maintaining both public trust and internal accountability within the department.

A disciplined, professional police force requires strong leadership, and that leadership starts at the top.

*** 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.**

New York's police officers put their lives on the line every day to keep our city safe, and they deserve our full support. Unfortunately, too often, so-called "accountability" measures are used as a political weapon to demoralize and handcuff the men and women of the NYPD, making it harder for them to do their jobs. Instead of undermining our officers, we should be giving them the tools, training, and backing they need to

succeed.

I support due process for officers and a fair disciplinary system that is not dictated by activists or political appointees with an anti-police agenda. I will oppose efforts to weaken qualified immunity and ensure that police officers are not unfairly targeted for simply doing their jobs. We should be focused on real reforms —like ensuring officers have the resources they need, cutting through bureaucratic red tape that prevents proactive policing, and restoring morale in the department so we can recruit and retain the best.

The best way to improve policing in New York is not to constantly look for ways to punish officers—it's to support them, listen to them, and give them the respect they have earned.

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?

I believe in a strong Mayoralty and the principle that the mayor should have the authority to appoint the leadership team necessary to execute their vision for the city. Expanding the City Council's "advice and consent" powers over mayoral appointments would only serve to undermine the executive authority of the mayor and potentially create unnecessary gridlock.

In its current form, the City Council has the responsibility to provide oversight, but their involvement in the appointment of high-ranking officials like agency commissioners should be minimal. The mayor is ultimately accountable to the voters of the city and should have the discretion to choose individuals who share their goals for governing the city effectively.

My concern is that many of the current members of the City Council are more focused on appealing to narrow, sometimes extreme, constituencies, rather than representing the broader, diverse interests of all New Yorkers. With this in mind, I am hesitant to expand "advice and consent" powers. If New York City undergoes real political reform that brings about more moderate, thoughtful representation, I would be open to revisiting the idea of allowing the Council a greater role in appointments, particularly for key commissioners. However, until we see that type of reform, I believe it's better for the mayor to have the flexibility to appoint leaders who will help move the city forward.

*** 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 think an appropriate check on the Mayor's power is to not allow him to bounce charter revision questions by appointing his own Commission. I think the Council also needs to do a better job with oversight, as evidenced by the problems with Thrive NYC.

ADDITIONAL INFO

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

I would encourage you to check out my website and social media platforms to get an idea of the full breadth of my platform.