

INTRODUCTION

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

Economic Justice and Affordability:

Too many New Yorkers are working harder while falling further behind. I will put more money into people's pockets by reducing the cost of living. This includes providing guaranteed income for those in need, universal childcare for families regardless of income, and faster payments to nonprofits and freelancers. These initiatives are practical and data-driven, designed to stabilize working families and uplift small businesses. We will unlock city reserves by declaring a cost-of-living emergency to provide direct relief for rent, childcare, food, and transportation. I will also create a digital platform that gives every resident the ability to access benefits, track payments, and request services with speed and transparency. This is about fundamentally shifting how the city operates and making it work for all New Yorkers.

Housing Access and Stability:

I will lead an aggressive push to make housing more affordable by tying affordability metrics to Local Median Income (LMI), not inflated regional data. We will build 600,000 new housing units with a focus on returning veterans, public workers, and young professionals. We will end the discriminatory use of credit checks in housing applications. Every New Yorker deserves the right to a stable home, not one determined by outdated or biased financial systems. The Mitchell-Lama 2.0 initiative will revive and modernize affordable housing to ensure that working people can stay in the city they built and call home. We will also tax vacant luxury apartments to generate funds for housing assistance and repairs to public housing. At the same time, we will raise income thresholds so middle-class New Yorkers are not locked out of housing they can afford. Our housing justice plan is rooted in dignity, fairness, and the belief that a home should be a right, not a privilege.

Public Safety and Community Health:

Public safety isn't just about enforcement, it's about making sure residents feel supported, healthy, and connected. Restoring public safety while investing in health and wellness is essential for our recovery. My administration will fund neighborhood-based mental health services, expand mobile units, and work with trusted community providers to bridge the access gap. We will destigmatize mental health in Black and immigrant communities through culturally competent providers and peer-led wellness models. We will partner with schools, religious institutions, and local clinics to bring services where people already are. Additionally, we'll support trauma informed crisis intervention rather than over-reliance on law enforcement for health emergencies. A safe city is a healthy city, and real safety means no one is left behind.

2. 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.

I am the only candidate with an ethics and reform platform and I plan to use it to rebuild citizens' trust in the government. I plan to make city government as accessible, transparent, and inclusive as possible to foster a sense of community, trust, and active participation. I will focus on leveraging technology to help with constituent services. I will show NYers that their government is working for them, not for my own personal gain. I will utilize all communications tools at my disposal to ensure that NYers have access to information about what's happening in City Hall and their tax dollars are being spent. I will ensure that the leadership team in City Hall and at all agencies reflect the diverse communities that make up NYC.

I am deeply committed to ethical, inclusive and transparent government. I serve as the 2024 inaugural Democracy Scholar at the W.E.B. DuBois Freedom Center. I am a Five-Year Term Member fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations and an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow. I am on the board for iVOTE, served as a 2016 Resident fellow at the Harvard University Institute of Politics, becoming the first sitting elected official to serve in that capacity, and recently was an advisory board member for the My Brother's Keeper Alliance. I am a national Honorary Co-Chair of the New Leaders Council, which has trained more than 9,000 millennials in progressive policies and political organizing.

I served as a Founding Visiting Fellow at Monroe University's Institute of Social Justice, Government and Civic Engagement, teaching more than 140 students twice a week about Civics and public policy. I am also leading the My Brother's Keeper efforts for Monroe University.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

3. 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.

Do you support moving New York City's elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you publicly support efforts in Albany to implement this reform?

YES/NO: YES

Comment (optional):

Yes, I strongly support moving New York City’s elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and I will publicly support efforts in Albany to implement this reform. As emphasized in my Economic Justice Plan and Project 2026 policies, strengthening democracy means ensuring that every New Yorker has a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the decisions that shape our city. Off cycle elections consistently result in low voter turnout and widen participation gaps, especially among working class residents, young people, and historically underrepresented communities. Moving city elections to even-numbered years will expand access, increase turnout, reduce confusion, and bring more voices into the process, especially those often left out. It’s a necessary reform that aligns with our broader goals of building a more inclusive, transparent, and representative government.

4. **The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) has been a source of frustration for voters and candidates for years. How will you use your power as Mayor to improve the operations of the NYC BOE and ensure that its operations are transparent and accountable to the public?**

The New York City Board of Elections must operate with transparency, efficiency, and accountability to truly serve the people. As mayor, I will push for structural reforms that bring professional and nonpartisan management to the Board. My administration will formally review BOE within the first 100 days, working with legal experts and civic advocates to improve operations and oversight. Just as we’ve proposed faster payments and tech-forward services across city agencies, we will implement tools that help voters track registration, locate polling sites, and monitor ballot status in real time. Transparency will be enforced through public reporting of key metrics like staffing, machine performance, and wait times. Equity will also guide our efforts, ensuring every neighborhood has fair and consistent access to ballots. We will work with Albany to advance needed legislative changes while engaging communities to rebuild public trust. New Yorkers deserve a Board of Elections that upholds democracy, not frustrates it.

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

YES/NO: YES

Comment (optional):

Ranked Choice Voting increases the power of New York City voters to directly select their elected officials, and in this election, their Mayor. This means there is a higher likelihood that the Mayor will represent a broader part of New Yorkers, providing more influence in the democratic process. Ranked Choice Voting also encourages candidates to reach beyond their base and appeal to a broader coalition of voters. It reduces negative campaigning and fosters more issue-focused dialogue. By allowing voters to rank their preferences, it ensures that every vote truly counts and helps elect leaders with majority support. This system strengthens our democracy by making elections more representative, inclusive, and reflective of the city's diverse voices.

6. 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 affiliation, move on to the general election?

YES/NO: YES

Comment (optional):

Voters should have the opportunity to choose from the top two candidates based on qualifications and public support. This election highlights why such a system matters, one candidate facing controversy is running outside the traditional process, which could affect the outcome by dividing the vote. A structure that advances the top two candidates helps ensure a fair and straightforward choice for voters in the general election. It prioritizes transparency and helps maintain public trust in the electoral process. Ultimately, the goal should be to give voters the clearest and most meaningful voice possible in choosing their next Mayor.

* 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.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- 7. 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? (Y/N with any comments)**

YES/NO: YES

Comment (optional):

Yes, I support limiting bundling by individuals listed in the Doing Business in the City database as part of a broader effort to ensure fairness and transparency in our elections. Bundling can create the appearance, or reality, of undue influence, especially when those involved have direct financial interests in city contracts or decisions. As part of my broader campaign finance and Board of Elections reform agenda, I will push for stronger rules and oversight to close loopholes that allow workarounds to individual donation limits. This aligns with my values of equity, accountability, and public trust in government. Just as I’ve proposed reforms to expedite nonprofit payments and increase contract transparency, I believe our campaign finance system must reflect those same principles. Strengthening disclosure and enforcement around bundling is a key step toward restoring public confidence. Every New Yorker deserves a government that works for people, not just those with access or influence.

- 8. 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/NO: YES

Comment (optional):

The public campaign matching funds programs helps ensure the voice and support of New Yorkers is given a more level playing field - a megaphone – when considered against the broad array of campaign contributions that come in to candidates. It is a great way for New Yorkers to support the campaigns that represent the leadership, policies and programs that they want to see in government.

*** 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 only accepting contributions from New Yorkers who share my vision for a better NYC. I am laser focused on rebuilding trust between New Yorkers and the government. I am not for sale, there is no number that anyone could donate that would veer me from my path forward to serve the people of New York City. I am the only candidate to have an ethics and reform platform, and given the time I’ve spent away from government as an elected official, I am the only candidate that is not associated with the questionable ethical dilemma the NYC government currently finds itself in.

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ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

9. **The recent 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.**

A strong sense of and commitment to ethics has always been and will always be part of my character – and as an elected official, holding myself and the members of my Administration to the highest ethical standard is paramount. In a Blake Administration, accountability begins on Day One.

I would establish an Independent Ethics Board within the Department of Investigation: This board would be empowered to investigate lobbying activities and potential conflicts of interest. It could also oversee the effectiveness of any legislation passed to reduce corporate influence and provide independent recommendations for further reform. I would also strengthen whistleblower protections to encourage individuals within both government and corporate sectors to report unethical behavior related to lobbying or corporate influence, without fear of retaliation.

My administration will publish an interactive digital dashboard that tracks progress on every campaign promise, organized by policy area and borough, updated quarterly for public review. Each agency will be required to submit public implementation reports, and our Council of Leaders, composed of community leaders, researchers, and journalists will provide regular independent audits. We will also embed performance metrics into city contracts and tie agency leadership evaluations to progress on equity, transparency, and public satisfaction. Most importantly, we will host monthly “Open City” forums in each borough where residents can engage directly with our administration and receive updates. Transparency won’t just be a buzzword, it will be a governing principle.

10. Incoming public servants must sever ties and divest from companies or other interests that have business dealing 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/NO: YES

Comment (optional):

11. **Some campaign consultants also work as lobbyists. Do you support restricting campaign consultants from lobbying their former clients for a period of two years after their client has won elected office?**

YES/NO: YES

Comment (optional):

* 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.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Decisions about police discipline must be transparent, fair, and accountable to the public. I believe that no single individual should hold unchecked authority over disciplinary outcomes in the NYPD. While the police commissioner plays a critical role in managing the department, final decisions on discipline should involve meaningful civilian oversight. Strengthening the role of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and ensuring that its recommendations are respected, is an essential step toward rebuilding public trust. As part of broader public safety and justice reforms, I will support a shared accountability model that includes independent review, community input, and clear standards. The goal is not only to ensure fairness but also to promote a culture of integrity and respect within the department and across our communities. This balanced approach will help ensure that disciplinary decisions are not only just but also reflect the values and expectations of the people the NYPD is sworn to serve.

13. How do you view the role of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety?

The Deputy Mayor for Public Safety plays a vital coordination and oversight role in ensuring that all public safety agencies are working collaboratively and effectively to keep New Yorkers safe. This position should focus on aligning strategies across departments and ensuring that community needs and concerns are heard and addressed. I believe the Deputy Mayor must prioritize both safety and justice, supporting smart, accountable policing while also advancing public health, youth services, and violence prevention efforts. Ultimately, this role should help foster trust between communities and government, ensuring that public safety is holistic, equitable, and rooted in shared responsibility.

14. Do you support making the appointment of the New York City Police Commissioner subject to the advice and consent of the City Council?

YES/NO: **Yes**

Comment (optional):

I believe it is important to explore all avenues that increase transparency, accountability, and public trust in our public safety leadership. While the appointment of the Police Commissioner has traditionally been a mayoral responsibility, I am open to considering a more collaborative process that includes input from the City Council. Any change must be carefully evaluated to ensure it strengthens public confidence without compromising operational effectiveness. The goal should always be a system that reflects the values of democratic oversight while maintaining strong, professional leadership within the NYPD. A potential advice and consent role for the City Council could serve as a meaningful check that ensures broader community representation in this critical decision. Ultimately,

any reform must be guided by the principle that public safety leadership should be both effective and accountable to the people it serves.

* 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 City.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

15. 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/NO: **Yes - Please read comment**

Comment (optional):

I believe in a democratic process where the voices of New Yorkers are respected and where checks and balances are upheld across all levels of government. While the mayor should have a role in shaping the city's future, the power to override ballot initiatives through the formation of a separate charter revision commission raises important concerns about transparency and public trust. I support exploring reforms that ensure charter revision efforts, whether initiated by the City Council, citizen petitions, or independent commissions, are not undermined by competing political interests. New Yorkers deserve a fair process where their input is not diluted. Any changes should be carefully evaluated to maintain the integrity of the charter process while promoting broader civic engagement. The focus should always be on strengthening public participation and ensuring our governing structures reflect the will of the people.

16. Please provide your views about "advice and consent" of the New York City Council. 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?

The advice and consent of the City Council can play an important role in ensuring that high ranking mayoral appointments reflect both professional qualifications and the diverse interests of New Yorkers. In particular, for positions that have a significant impact on public safety, civil rights, housing, and health, it is reasonable to consider Council involvement to promote shared accountability. Any process involving Council approval should be clear, efficient, and designed to maintain the ability of the executive branch to govern effectively. Collaboration between the mayor and City Council strengthens trust in government and can lead to better outcomes for communities. Ultimately, the goal is to strike the right balance between effective leadership and democratic oversight.

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