



GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Tyrell Hankerson
City Council District #	28
In which primary	Democratic
Age	31
Education	Some College
Current job, position, or occupation	Chief of Staff, NYC Council Speaker

Campaign contact information

Website	https://www.tyhankerson.com/
X	https://x.com/TyHankerson
Instagram	@TyHankerson
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/tyrell.hankerson2040

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: Make the district more affordable for both renters and homeowners by advocating for stronger tenant protections, increased access to affordable housing, and support for first-time homebuyers.

Promise 2: Improve educational outcomes by increasing the number of college graduates, working with principals to reduce class sizes, expanding afterschool programs, and ensuring schools have the resources needed for student success.

Promise 3: Enhance public safety and quality of life by ensuring cleaner streets, advocating for accessible public transportation, and working with state legislators to push for greater police accountability in our district.

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 am not an incumbent.

If elected to the NYC Council, I will introduce legislation that creates pathways to affordable homeownership, to expand access to first-time homebuyer assistance, create targeted down payment support for low- and middle-income families, and promote the development of affordable, owner-occupied housing especially in communities that have faced historic disinvestment. Homeownership is one of the most powerful tools for building generational wealth and community stability, yet for many New Yorkers, it remains out of reach. In District 28, rising costs, limited housing supply, and systemic barriers have locked out too many hardworking residents from owning a home.

This is my top priority because stable homeownership strengthens neighborhoods, improves educational outcomes, and gives families a stake in the future of their communities. We need to make sure that opportunity isn't reserved for the few.

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

In my view, the major needs of my district's constituents include affordable housing, accessible public transportation, quality public education, and stronger community-based public safety. Many residents are also deeply concerned about rising costs of living, lack of affordable childcare, and limited access to mental health services.

Constituents are calling for more responsive, transparent government that delivers real results. Whether it's the need for safer streets, cleaner public spaces, or better housing protections, people want to feel that their voices matter, and that city systems are working for them, not against them. There's also a strong desire for investment in youth programs, job training, and small business support. My goal is to champion policies that not only meet immediate needs but also create long-term opportunities and equity.

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 this district my entire life. I am happy that I serve as the District's Chief of Staff, resolving constituents' issues on a daily basis. I am particularly proud that I have helped to bring capital resources to District 28 for our educational institutions. I am proud that I have developed the knowledge and skill

sets around education policy and parent empowerment by attending Community Education Council meetings and Community Board meetings.

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.

Throughout my career and community involvement, I've been deeply committed to transparency, accountability, and public trust; I believe that these principles are the cornerstones of a functioning democracy, and that we must continually work to strengthen them.

I've been involved in efforts to expand civic engagement and voting access, including educating voters on ranked choice voting, organizing voter registration drives, and advocating for early voting outreach in underserved communities. I've also supported campaign finance reform measures that empower small-dollar donors to have a greater voice.

In terms of police accountability and ethics, I've stood with community leaders calling for more transparent misconduct reporting and greater civilian oversight. I organized the Code Black protest during the pandemic that gained national attention so that I can bring attention to police accountability. I believe in a model of public safety rooted in fairness, trust, and community partnership.

Most recently, I've pushed for greater transparency in city budgeting, supporting efforts to make budget data more accessible to the public and ensure residents can see where their tax dollars are going.

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

In this upcoming term, the City Council must be bold in shaping policy and sharp in its oversight responsibilities. They must also be proactive in ensuring that city agencies are delivering for all New Yorkers.

The City Council must deepen public engagement and bring more voices into the decision-making process - whether through participatory budgeting, accessible hearings, or community-based planning, it's essential that New Yorkers feel their local government is working with them. The City Council plays a critical role as both a legislative body and a check on executive power. As we face major challenges from housing insecurity and public safety to climate resilience and a strained budget, the Council must lead with equity, transparency, and accountability. That means not only passing legislation, but also closely monitoring how policies are implemented on the ground.

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

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.**

I believe our democracy is only as strong as the public’s ability to participate in it fully and fairly. I have supported, and will continue to advocate for, measures that expand access to voting, improve election transparency, and build trust in our electoral system. I particularly think it is important to provide more voter education on primary elections, and improving language access.

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 strongly support New York City’s public matching funds program and believe it’s one of the most effective tools we have to empower everyday voters to have a meaningful voice in elections. I will advocate for more guidance and training around campaign finance rules to reduce unintentional violations and promote fair participation.

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.

If elected, I will maintain the highest ethical standards by prioritizing transparency, accountability, and a clear separation between public service and personal or political gain. Specifically, I will lead by example, and ensure that everyone working in my office understands and upholds clear ethical guidelines. I will adhere to all of NYC's ethics laws and disclosure requirements.

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 advocate for mandatory ethics training for all elected officials, senior staff, and agency heads, not just at the start of a term, but on an ongoing basis (annually). When training is done on a consistent basis, it becomes the code of conduct.

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 final say on discipline in the New York Police Department should rest with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), one that has authority, sufficient resources, and legal protections to hold officers accountable without political interference. Currently, placing that authority solely in the hands of the Police Commissioner creates a conflict of interest. When misconduct occurs, the public deserves to know that accountability is not discretionary.

*** 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 advocate to increase funding for the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) to increase funding to handle cases efficiently and independently. I will advocate to expand community oversight mechanisms, including allowing more community input on precinct-level policies and officer conduct. I will also advocate for independent investigations into use-of-force incidents and in-custody deaths.

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?

No

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 the City Council should have "advice and consent" powers over key mayoral appointments—particularly for high-ranking officials such as agency commissioners who oversee vital public services and shape long-term city policy. For example, the NYPD commissioner should require the City Council's

approval.

ADDITIONAL INFO