



ABOUT TIFFANY WINBUSH

Short bio

Tiffany Winbush has called New York City home for the last 15 years. While growing up in her hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana, Tiffany's family was active in their local community, educating their neighbors about how their vote in local elections impacted their community and the resources it received. Tiffany vividly remembers her family mobilizing their wider family and neighbors to vote in a vital Governor's election in 1991 when she was only nine years-old. She learned then that there is power in organizing and political change can start right at home. One of Tiffany's biggest role models was her mother Delores, a single mother of four. To help elevate her mom's stress from working three jobs, Tiffany took her first job at 15 years-old, working the 5:00 am opening shift at a bakery, in order to get some work hours in before the start of the school day. Due to the example set by her family, and the long line of community activists before her, Tiffany's passion for organizing and social justice stayed with her. Throughout the 15 years that Tiffany has called NYC home, she's served three terms on Manhattan's Community Board #1; advocated for the rights of women and girls throughout New York State alongside a mission-driven, women-empowered national organization; spearheaded community service initiatives throughout the borough of Manhattan with an over 100 year-old organization dedicated to public service; and served as an alumni board member for the New York University School of Professional Studies -- Division of Programs in Business.

Full bio

Tiffany has called New York City home for the last 15 years. NYC is where she started her career in communications, began her life with her husband Amos, became a mother to her daughter Kai and son Spencer-Johnson, and plugged herself into her new Downtown community almost immediately when moving to New York.

Tiffany never imagined she'd call New York City home, but like so many others, NYC has her heart and there's no going back. While growing up in her hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana, Tiffany's family was active in their local community, educating their neighbors about how their vote in local elections impacted their community and the resources it received. Tiffany vividly remembers the 1991 Governor's race in Louisiana where supremacist David Duke almost won the race. Her family mobilized their wider family and their neighbors by making sure they were all registered to vote and that they made it to the polls on election day. She learned then that there is power in organizing and political change can start right at home.

One of Tiffany's biggest role models is her mother Delores. A single mother of four, Delores was born in the Jim Crow South 11 years before the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Though she faced set-backs, and often worked three jobs to provide for her family, the hard work and perseverance of Tiffany's mother helped her develop the character she has today. To help alleviate her mom's stress from working three jobs, Tiffany took her first job at 15 years-old, working the 5:00 am opening shift, in order to get some work hours in before the start of the school day.

While Tiffany's mother passed away a decade ago, she continues to be inspired by women like her mother and other strong women throughout history. Mary Church Terrell, Dorothy I. Height, Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan are the ancestors whose shoulders Tiffany stands on. These women exemplified what it meant to be a leader by organizing to make their communities better, while also breaking barriers.

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Tiffany lives in the Financial District with her husband and her two children. She's a proud parent of a NYC public school student, has served in a number of leadership roles within the Parent Teacher Association and is a member of her local democratic club, the Downtown Independent Democrats. In her free time, she enjoys visiting Governors Island, biking around town and planning outings for her family of four.

VID Candidate Survey: City Council

Email address *

info@tiffanyfornyc.com

Name: *

Tiffany Winbush

In which Council District are you running? *

City Council District 1

City Council District 1

Do you support SoHo/NoHo rezoning? Is there a version of it you would support? *

I believe deeply in affordable housing. I support rezoning that will bring about permanent, affordable housing. I think it's the responsibility of each NYC community to take on the responsibility of welcoming affordable housing in their community. We borough, each neighborhood should all carry its weight to ensure its fellow New Yorkers has stable housing. Inclusive communities are beneficial to everyone. But what I can't support are rezonings that disrupt communities to the point that they are unrecognizable. Rezoning will look different for each community, as it should. There is no one size that fits all when it comes to rezoning. I believe we can rezone the SoHo/NoHo communities in a way that will provide affordable housing, but will not take away the character of the communities. This includes making sure that buildings are not super tall, centering small businesses vs. bit box stores and making sure cultural institutions are given a prominent role in these creative neighborhoods.

Do you support the borough-based jail in Chinatown? *

No, I do not support the borough-based jail in Chinatown. I completely understand the need to close Rikers. We can not deny that Rikers is riddled with problems. But rehousing those who are jailed in Rikers directly into neighborhoods will not solve the problems that are faced within the jail. We need criminal justice overhaul, which will ultimately lead to arresting less people. Our society should be focusing on fixing the inequities within the criminal justice system, not building new jails.

Do you support replacing the Elizabeth Street Gardens with the proposed senior citizen development? *

As I've previously shared, permanent and affordable housing is essential to New Yorkers, and that includes New Yorkers who call District 1 home. The need for senior housing, allow seniors to age in place is essential. These seniors have called New York home for years and they deserve the right to live the rest of their lives here. COVID-19 has taught us that outdoor space is invaluable. So many New Yorkers are not afforded the opportunity to have personal outdoor space. What Elizabeth Street Garden offers is much needed outdoor and green space to New Yorkers at a time when we need it the most. A suitable alternative location has been found for senior housing in the district. If the city is truly concerned about the need for affordable senior housing, they would exhaust all options before tearing down much needed outdoor public space.

Do you support the Two Bridges developments? What changes would you make to them? *

The Two Bridges developments could be vital to the community as it would bring about some much needed additional affordable housing options for the District 1. But the mega-developments will continue to contribute to the change in the community with its super tall buildings. Though the 25% that has been set aside for affordable housing isn't nearly enough. From the very beginning, the mega-developments put a bad taste in the mouth of community members due to not going through the proper ULURP process. Once again, the City Planning Commission failed to gain input from the local community. I'm not anti-development as historically NYC has a housing shortage. Community development should always involve locals within the community getting a seat at the table. In addition to involving the community, we must comment to a building, so that any new development will be aligned with building height currently in the community.

City Council District 2

Do you support the phased closing of East River Park for the current coastal resiliency project? If not, how would you ensure LES and EV residents are safe from future storms and flooding? *

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Do you support the move and downsizing of Beth Israel by Mount Sinai? Have you considered the effect on your constituents and do you have a different proposal? *

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City Council District 3

Would you support upzoning parts of the Village to create affordable housing? What is your plan to protect existing affordable housing and create more, in the Village specifically? *

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Many residents of District 3, particularly our elderly and people with disabilities, have complained that lax bike rule enforcement, increased outdoor dining, and other factors have made the Village less walkable and more dangerous for elderly and disabled pedestrians. What would you do to improve the situation? *

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There have been several clashes between NYPD and protesters in past months. How would you work with the NYPD to ensure that peaceful protesters are not subject to kettling and other police practices that are harmful to the protesters? *

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How would you use this position to improve policing in New York? Do you support cutting NYPD funding in order to reallocate funds towards needed services and social programs? Where would you reallocate the funds, if so? What concrete policies would you advocate for to improve policing in NY? *

Policing needs an overhaul from the inside out. Many people who identify as BIPOC are continuing to use their voices to say that city police officers do not make them feel safe. Officers have shared that they feel burdened with responsibilities that can be better addressed by the appropriate agencies that are not the NYPD. As we can see, there are issues on both sides. Funds from the NYPD budget should be redirected to funding social services. We can not address crime if we do not address poverty. Show me a community that has less crime and I will show you a community that is not underfunded. Other agencies outside of the NYPD will address and manage issues that should not fall on their plate. NYPD can then return to focusing on Community/Neighborhood policing, allowing them to develop relationships in the community that will lessen the tension between the police force and our communities. To improve policing I would: -Concentrate on Community/Neighborhood policing, -Push the Mayor to hire a Commissioner that believes in community/neighborhood policing, -Require officers to have residency in the city for a specified amount of time, -Require additional training before graduating from the Academy.

How would you go about creating more affordable housing in New York? What about permanent housing for New York's homeless population? Where would you put it? How would you make sure it's actually affordable and sustainable? Would you ever support upzoning in order to create it? Will you accept money from real estate interests? Please be specific on your proposals. *

Not only is affordable housing needed in NYC, but affordable, permanent housing is needed, this includes for the city's unhoused population, i.e. the homeless. Affordable housing can not be concentrated into only one community. Each community within the city has to take on a responsibility for incorporating affordable housing in their neighborhoods. Currently, the city is temporarily housing the unsheltered in hotels. This is essential as our are still in the midst of a pandemic. But once we've made it over the other side, these hotels can be retrofitted to become affordable, permanent housing, not just for the homeless population, but who any New Yorker who needed affordable housing. Tourism will not suddenly return to NYC. Having hotels stand empty while homeless people are living on out streets is unacceptable. Versus immediately turning to upzoning to help secure affordable housing, let's look around for empty businesses that can serve as a resource.

Do you support taxing the wealthy? What specific tax policy changes would you support in New York State and New York City to increase State and City revenue? How will you, at the same time, restore NYC's economic health, employment, tax base, and small businesses, both short-term and long? *

I support taxing the wealthy in order to fully fund much needed social service programs. As a society, we have never committed to providing full funding to programs that would positively impact the lives of people. We have a chance to do that now in NYC. I specially would like to start with implementing a pied-à-terre tax. Additionally, we have to raise income taxes omg ultra millionaires. The wealth of millionaires has increased tremendously during COVID, while so many of us are struggling to support ourselves and our families. In order to restore NYC's economic health, we have to think and live in the now. Small business owners need cash in hand in order to keep their heads above the water as we continue to battle COVID. Small businesses are the backbone of our city and we need to make sure they receive more, robust help from the city. Through the increase in revenue from properly taxing the wealthy, to streamlining budgets and spending across all divisions from the city, we can ensure that NYC economy begins to stabilize.

How should we desegregate our schools? Do you support eliminating the SHSAT? Do you support admissions screens? What concrete changes would you make to our public school system? *

Desegregating schools has to be a top priority. The zoned map for school District 2 clearly excludes families and children who live in NYCHA housing. There's no way around not seeing how this segregation came about and it was done on purpose. With the uncertainty of education due to COVID-19, but is the perfect time to overhaul NYC public schools to make them more equitable. We can desegregate NYC schools by eliminating the SHSAT, doing away with screened admissions and allowing rising middle schoolers to apply for schools in D2 even if they currently reside outside of the district. Desegregation has to start at the root, from 3K/Pre-K. While elementary students typically attend their neighborhood school, there should be more opportunities for younger kids to attend a school that they have an affiliation with. It should be easier to grant approval to students who want to attend elementary schools in zones where their parents work, in zones where their older middle and high school siblings attend school, so that one family has school drop off all in the same vicinity. And should NYC public schools continue with G&T programs, they programs have to reflect the broader diversity of our city.

What is the path forward on corrections reform? Do you support closing Rikers? Do you support constructing new, borough-based jails? In all boroughs or just some of them? Do you support bail reform? Did you support the recent partial roll back of bail reform? *

I support closing Rikers, but I do not support building new jails, especially in the center of communities. We need a complete overhaul of our nation's criminal justice system that doesn't involve incarcerating people as our first course of action. Bail reform is necessary and the reforms made so far are a good start. We still have a long way to go to roll-out additional bail reforms that will center restorative justice while ensuring that communities still feel its sense of safety.

How can New York lead on climate change? Are there any green energy projects we can pursue? Do you support any of the existing pipeline proposals? How can we leverage our financial and economic power to encourage other jurisdictions to be better on the climate? *

New York City can lead on climate change by first making sure that our communities are protected by the next impact of a Superstorm Sandy. It's not if what happened 8 years ago will happen again, but when will it happen again. There are a number of resiliency projects already in the pipeline. We need to complete those projects as fast and efficiently as possible. But we also need to call on corporations throughout the city to do more. Reducing their greenhouse gas emissions should be a number one priority. NYC is one of the richest cities in the world. I discussed earlier about the need to tax the rich to pay for vital services needed by the city. Environmental resiliency is one of those vital services that can not be ignored.

How will you improve procurement and contracting? How do we cut waste, and how do we make sure women- and minority-owned businesses get a fair shake in the procurement process? *

New York is facing a major budget deficit. It won't be popular, but in addition to taxing the rich, we'll need to re-exam the way the city conducts business with vendors to climate waste. When focusing on the need to improve procurement, a commitment to working with businesses that are within a person's immediate network is necessary. The city must actively seek out contracts with companies that do not have ties to the city. We know that women and minority-owned businesses are the being left out. We can "meet them where they are" by aligning ourselves with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, historically Black fraternities and sororities, such as the ones that got Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris elected and specifically zoning in on Black women business owners as they have become the fastest growing entrepreneurs over the last several years.

What is your plan to save small businesses? How do we make sure, when we come back from COVID, our local businesses are still here? And how do we make sure the enormous amount of commercial vacancies get filled, and not just by big chains snatching up cheap leases? *

There's no way around it, small businesses need cash in hand in order to survive. Like many people, I am hopeful that states will receive stimulus funds from the federal government. One of the first things we have to do once stimulus funds are earmarked for cities, is have the backs of small businesses owners by providing them with the grants and no interest loans they are desperately in need of. The city has to make the process of small business owners attempting to survive much easier than it is now. They should not be faced with unnecessary barriers that make it even more difficult to run a business. There is currently a bill that wants to ensure that landlords don't keep their commercial properties vacant as they waiting for the their preferred asking price. City Council should also consider legislation that ensures there is a comparable amount of small business owners and big box stores in a community.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about myself and the future I have for District 1. Please visit my website for more information: <https://www.tiffanyfornyc.com>. Additionally, I can be reached by email at info@tiffanyfornyc.com.

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