

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? *

The NYPD has too many responsibilities but remains a critical feature of a functioning government. Police officers should not be the primary response to medical calls, noise complaints, and homelessness, and the Department has proven incapable of confronting its systemic racism at the cost of black and brown lives. Resources should be shifted from the bloated police budget to fund schools, parks, housing, health care, and other essential social services. In addition, more than half of NYPD officers do not live in New York City, and according to data less than five years old, only 4% live in Manhattan. How can we expect essential workers who cannot afford to live in or near their own neighborhoods to take care of our neighbors? Crime and fear are on the rise, and we must find a way to oversee a police force that is just and fair, yet empowered to conduct police work appropriately.

I would include Precinct NYPD Manhattan leadership in Borough Board and ensure that localized assemblies take place that integrate Community Affairs teams with Community Boards and School District leaders.

I also want to advocate for residency requirements and housing priorities for police officers, as part of an effort to ensure that police officers are closer to their communities.

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Downtown Democrat Club Candidate Survey: Borough President <https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/d/1d7LrjtYSqUk0F3itmdsz0...>

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. *

Far too many New Yorkers live with housing insecurity and utterly inhumane conditions in public housing. Countless others pay rent to profiteering landlords, making Manhattan notorious for the lowest home ownership rate in the country (at 20%, compared to the US rate of 64%, and the NYC rate 33%). Home ownership is among the most significant ways that adults build generational wealth, a key perpetuator of racial equity.

Resurrect and expand the HDFC program. The HDFC program, started by former Mayor Dinkins, has been a political football ever since, and is steeped in bureaucratic bloat. Reformed and reconstituted back into a program aligned with its original purpose - to increase home ownership - HDFC could improve the quality of life and wealth of many New Yorkers.

Reform Zoning and ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Process): Developers and government decision makers have not played by the rules -- they bend, stretch and contort the law to maximize their profits. While local leaders have experienced some advocacy wins and some losses, most ULURP cases end up traveling through the courts, draining community energy and resources. Local leaders must advocate for policies that

force developers to abide by the rules. As Manhattan Borough President, I will stand with the people and against real estate corruption. I do not know anyone in the real estate industry, so the question about donations for influence doesn't really apply to me. I would be willing to speak to constituents that do this work, but only to try and find common ground and make progress for those who have been harmed by development policies.

Essential Worker Priority for Housing: Neighborhood teachers, firefighters, nurses, and others are some of our most valued government personnel, yet most cannot afford to live in Manhattan. To thrive, our neighborhoods need more local residents to work near their homes.

Reinvent NYCHA: Public housing needs a major reboot, and it isn't selling off buildings to private companies or privately run organizations (cancel RAD). Residents and communities should take over these buildings, and where possible, options for equity should be offered. Also, poor ventilation, lead paint and water, broken elevators and more continue to affect NYCHA residents, so we need operational leadership which can execute a new plan to maintain these aging buildings.

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 do support more progressive tax policies as a function of running balanced budgets. In times of great crisis, raising revenue is critical. Taxing wealthy assets, stock and non-primary residences are common sense.

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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? *

I have a five-point plan on the public school system and I have made this the centerpiece of my campaign because the schools and families anchor our communities.

1. Abolish Mayoral Control. Bring democracy back to public schools with a more democratically selected school board for the city and each district. Central DOE has shown its inability to make policy and serve students, and our most vulnerable are impacted the most. One of the ways to course correct on systemic injustices is to institute common sense checks and balances to the current, authoritarian ruled part of our city government.

2. Fight for Budget Justice and Implement Essential School Funding Model. Public schools must be properly and transparently resourced. Budgets must include all essential personnel and programs; and principals, superintendents and elected boards should take part in budgetary oversight. Positions such as librarians, nurses, social workers, arts teachers, gym teachers, custodians, after school programs, and special education experts are often hidden outside of school budgets and therefore can be contracted out to private organizations.

3. Stop the Privatization of Public Schools. Charter schools were meant to be institutions of innovation;

they were not set up to operate as a parallel system of public education. Yet, wealthy New Yorkers have been pumping money into charter chains, where several organizations essentially have created endowments. At the same time, they serve a disproportionately smaller number of students in crisis, ELL's and IEP students. Upper Manhattan, which serves roughly 8% of the student population, is home to more than 22% of charter schools. We need a champion for public schools!

4. Fix the School Nurse and Social Worker Shortages. For decades, governments have prioritized high stakes testing and vanity projects, drawing resources away from the school system's responsibility to provide essential services and sound education. We must redirect funding to employ a full-time nurse and social worker in all schools.

5. Bring Elected Public School Leaders into Borough Board Ops. To improve communications, reduce redundancies, and build stronger advocacy efforts across all of the issues that public schools face, I want to bring CEC Presidents into the Borough Board as well as bring CEC administrators into the Service Cabinet.

On the SHSAT, I believe in municipal rule, that the State of New York should not dictate admissions policy to the City of New York. Options for altering admissions has been debated for decades. Experts - actual education experts - should lead these conversations, just as scientists should have been in the lead on COVID last year.

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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? *

NYC's lack of a sustainable economy relative to the cost of living is the true problem with our criminal justice system. Corrections reform should focus on training, socialization, and quality of life improvements that help formerly incarcerated reintegrate with their communities.

The question of closing Rikers is vital for its history of abuse and oppression. The question below, about climate change, is a perfect start for New York City to begin focusing on ways to lead on climate change. Rikers is a small island, an ecosystem that could be reestablished to help the regional waterfront develop resiliency. Rikers should NOT be sold off for big development when we already know that the entire east side of Manhattan is under threat from climate change.

Yes, I support bail reform and reforming policing practices in communities of color (see my remarks about NYPD above). However, I also live in Harlem where gun violence, harassment, and physical altercations have spiked a great deal. Despite issues related to covid living conditions and the collapse of the already fragile economy in which many people live in northern Manhattan, criminal behavior is not acceptable and

must be addressed. Refusing to arrest people who harm other people is not the answer. Our streets are not as safe as they were pre-covid, and we need leadership to quell the rise in criminal activity.

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 shouldn't pursue a leadership role on climate change unless or until communities unify around what it takes to protect our own city. And we haven't. We need civic education around the impact of ignoring this problem, and I would start small rather than trying to make grandiose statements about being the leader.

ALL schools should have gardens, and all communities should have composting, local recycling and circular consumption centers in order to help reduce our carbon footprint as a population.

Solar energy and rain water runoff reduction plans are two projects that could bring jobs to the city AND help us fight climate change (and acute issues of standing water, rat/mosquito infestation, etc).

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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? *

The last eight years has seen the NYC budget grow by more than 30%. How this has happened with its accompanying degradation of quality of life, mismanagement of public schools, spike in crimes, and increased homelessness should anger every single New Yorker. Runaway contracts, especially within the Department of Education and across all aspects of our public health sector, we are spending more and more and getting less and less.

This is the consequence of unchecked executive authority and poor accountability structures. Decentralizing operations but using technology to ensure transparency and integrity are where I would like to start. That's why my platform focuses so heavily on the DOE - it's the largest city agency and enjoys the greatest amount of freedom from checks and balances due to Mayoral Control.

The MBO approval process is designed to deny contracts to those who operate outside the insider procurement channels. We need a better way to explain what types of contracts are available for government procurement, and maintain a more transparent database of contract amounts and overages so that we can see who benefits from political favors and who is just fighting to survive.

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? *

Expand relief and use legal remedies to get small business back into retail spaces. Main Street Manhattan must thrive, which means that we need to offer incentives to start ups, pop ups, micro businesses, partnerships and other programs that connect retailers to customers. Commercial rent control, vacancy penalties, and eminent domain are two ways that I think the city should use to ensure that large building owners do not allow vacant spaces to remain empty and deny neighborhoods the right to vibrant spaces.

Expand Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP): employing NYC's youth through summer jobs demands greater enthusiasm, as leaders take a closer look at how much it means to participants. We should be talking about how we can grow this program, which supports families of essential workers and offers skills-building and experience for teens across the city.

Make Child Care affordable: Infant and early childcare costs are too high for most low and middle income families. We must incentivize childcare operators so that our workforce can afford to go to work. We also need to incentivize employers to offer childcare.

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How do you plan to use your office as more than just a bully pulpit? What are some concrete things you plan to do, other than vocally support and oppose policy decisions made by others? *

Borough Presidents are mystifying to many voters because their authority is limited, but in this age of unchecked executive authority, leaders in the boroughs of Manhattan should also serve as a check on any tendency of the Mayor to mismanage, court fame, and/or harm New Yorkers.

Every elected official should be ashamed of the work of this administration, and the fact that many of them are running for higher office in 2021 should be a clue to all New Yorkers that government officials are very comfortable within the environment, in the echo chamber, that we have allowed to develop over the years.

Two specific initiatives that I will pursue:

1. A student leadership assembly that focuses on civic responsibilities and development. I created Model CEC3 in District 3 middle schools that is an after school program designed around educational issues. I'd like to expand on that, partner with SYED, Teens Take Charge and other youth groups to amplify the voices of our kids.
2. Civic days - we need to educate the electorate! New York has one of the worst voter turnout records in

the country and continues to struggle with basic principles of community led improvements. In neighborhoods where this works well, we need to bring people together and cross pollinate ideas for ways to help all residents.

How will you utilize and empower community boards to better serve their communities? *

Our Community Boards are the breeding ground for a great deal of involvement, neighborhood strength, but also political power-mongering. I think that the city needs to begin to think about ways that we can help CB's integrate with other entities and potential rethink the way that we populate the boards, perhaps through elections.

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

Traffic, street dangers for cyclists and pedestrians plague Manhattan's 508 miles of streets. I am running every mile of the Borough (to date, I've run just under 200 miles), so that I can learn where we can create more open space, outdoor dining and reduce the impact of vehicular traffic. I want to reduce vehicular street space by 20% in my first term and already see where dozens of miles of street would be better used for pedestrian, cycling, green, and other open space.

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