

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 Borough President sits at the head of our grassroots civic infrastructure in NYC. As Borough President, I will be a leader who brings Manhattan's diverse communities and stakeholders together. It is imperative that we work to restore confidence in the criminal justice system but that confidence has to be earned through meaningful reform.

Yes, I support reallocating funds from the police and reinvesting those funds into public services focused in New York's most marginalized communities, which have been historically overpoliced. Mental health and housing services in particular should be a focus of this reallocation, in addition to funding community anti-violence organizations like violence interrupters and city-supported neighborhood watches. These programs have been shown to be highly effective at reducing crime, without the debilitating and destructive effects that police violence and stop-and-frisk have wrought on Black and Brown communities throughout New York City over the past decades. I will use the Borough President's capital budget to support these community-based programs and will use the Office's platform to call for further reforms.

Regarding policies, I support efforts to descope the police, including removing police from traffic enforcement and mental health crisis response, and support the repeal of the walking while trans anti loitering law. We must legalize marijuana in New York State and consider further decriminalization regarding drug usage, as Oregon did this past year. Finally, we need much stronger accountability rules for police, and I will fervently support efforts to increase the rate at which officers with numerous complaints against them are terminated from the NYPD. A small fraction of officers are responsible for a large number of false arrest and excessive force settlements paid out by the City of New York, and there is no reason for them to continue to be on the force. I support making the Civilian Complaint Review Board's determinations legally binding and the public election of CCRB members as significant first steps toward achieving police accountability.

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. \*

I do not and will not take any money from real estate interests.

As an urban planner and the former Deputy Secretary of Economic Development and Housing for the State of New York, I am uniquely qualified to help address the issues of land use and zoning and how it relates to housing in our city. When it comes to these issues, I am above all focused on livability and equity.

We are facing an affordable housing crisis because of the lack of investment in programs dedicated to helping people continue to live in New York City. In the mid-20th century, a majority of New Yorkers were assisted in living here through a number of housing programs. Now, we are faced with vital housing programs like Mitchell-Lama aging out, the unconscionable reality of public housing conditions, a lack of senior housing, and a decrease in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized housing. We are not only not creating enough affordable housing, we are simply not creating anywhere near the level of sophistication of housing that we need to help people live in New York City. Our focus needs to be on creating the most housing for the most people, whether through affordable housing units, public housing units, or market rate units, while funding and preserving the affordable housing that we have such as NYCHA. We also must pursue permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, equitably, across the city.

I have talked to a lot of people who have been engaged in the Soho/Noho rezoning, I have listened to various presentations and looked at the study area, and unfortunately what I have found most of all, is that like too much of our planning and zoning process in this city, it has been driven by the interests of real estate developers - in this case Edison Properties. This represents to me the many problems within the planning process which has produced a city that is unlivable to everyone but the super rich. Given how the process has been handled from its start, I do not believe that seeing it through is a positive step for Manhattan. If we continue with developer-led land use initiatives, we are not going to get the affordable housing we need, we are not going to help preserve small scale retail, and we are not going to address the fundamental affordability and equity problems of our city. I am not in support of this specific Soho/Noho Rezoning plan, and I think we need to begin anew with a community-led plan that incorporates much more affordable housing.

I spent the first decade of my career managing public parks and green spaces in New York City. The City as a whole must decide how much housing and green space we want and then we must plan to accomplish that, with every community board district responsible for meeting those goals. Failure to consider green space in rezoning, including rezonings that importantly consider resiliency, will lead to projects like the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, which destroys desperately needed public space in the name of the environment.

I will ensure that rezoning happens equally across the Borough, and not just in lower income communities of color, which is the current practice. Any rezoning in a lower income neighborhood which increases new development must be matched by a rezoning in a high income neighborhood which does the same.

I will also focus on the maintenance and expansion of public spaces, particularly in lower income neighborhoods, which are frequently denied the vital benefit of parks and community gathering spaces. Any rezoning effort, particularly those seeking to increase the housing supply, must be cognizant of the need for affordable housing, the need for public spaces, and the needs of the community. We also must plan our buildings to be resilient and consider inevitable sea level rise due to climate change.

The ULURP process is in fundamental need of reform. The current ULURP process is developer-driven and takes a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach to a problem that must be dealt with holistically city-wide. When a land use change does or does not happen in the Upper East Side, that decision affects the Financial District.

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, and support any revenue raising bills put forward which do so, including the millionaire and billionaire tax legislation that Governor Cuomo has resisted. I also support the pied a-terre tax.

Restoring New York's economic health, employment, and tax base, in both the short and long term, comes down to the same fundamental issues. We need more housing of every kind, everywhere in this City, and we need it to be near public transportation in particular. If we were to expand our housing supply and bring New York rents in line with even a city as expensive as Los Angeles, the median New Yorker would see about a \$6000 increase in their disposable income. That money could be spent at small businesses and would increase our tax revenues. New York City should be growing and thriving with housing for everybody, and we must be laser-focused on bringing the cost of living down.

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

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? \*

We need to look at every option for desegregating our public school systems, including temporarily ending the middle school screening and seriously considering a permanent ban on the practice. In addition, we need to keep agitating for the full funding of public schools that is owed to our children and families from the Campaign for Fiscal Equity ruling which has directly led to school segregation. Decades of disinvestment in our public school system - including co-locations with charter schools - have contributed greatly to the depressing reality that the majority of Black and Latino students attend schools that have limited enrollment of white students.

We need to fully address the glaring lack of diversity in specialized schools with input from parents and stakeholders in every community. Mayor de Blasio failed miserably when it came to engaging the very constituents that he represents. While I'm not ready to entirely eliminate the SHSAT, I would advocate for the doubling of the number of SHSAT schools and expanding the number of SHSAT seats, urging the City and State governments to fully fund universal test prep of the SHSAT exam, consider introducing other criteria for admittance into SHSAT schools, and prioritizing other structural reforms so that more Black and Latino students have every opportunity to be considered for specialized high schools.

That being said, specialized high schools only account for the education of around 3% of our public schools students so a comprehensive solution involves addressing the longstanding needs of all of our public schools. In addition to advocating for our public schools to receive their court mandated full funding, we also need to recruit teachers that reflect the demographic profile of our classrooms, pay our teachers more in line with their significant contributions to our society, and ensure that our classrooms are safe workplaces to teach and learn in.

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? \*

The path forward on corrections reform is a return to the presumption of innocence. At a bare minimum, less intrusive means for securing return to court and for pretrial supervision should be used instead of incarceration. Incarceration itself is criminogenic, and pretrial supervision can lead people to lose jobs and connection to their communities. Its routine use must be ended, and we should use existing jail capacity without Rikers as a target to meet our goals.

I support closing Rikers and I do not support constructing any new borough-based jails, such as the one proposed in Chinatown, which I actively opposed with the community. I supported the bail reform bill in 2019 and I was against the recent partial roll-back of the bail reform. Rather than building new jails, we must focus on reducing the need for and the use of pretrial incarceration and technical parole violations which keep our jails occupied.

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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's carbon footprint is one-third of the national average and it has one of the lowest carbon footprints per resident in the entire country. Our reliance on public transportation and the ease of heating dense buildings rather than cars and sprawl makes our way of life green already. The number one way New York City can lead on climate change is to make it easier and more affordable for more Americans to live in the City rather than moving to sprawling cities in search of cheaper housing.

But we can do better. We must transform New York City into a resilient city that is prepared for the inevitable changes in our climate and sea levels. My role managing disaster recovery for New York State gave me a deep understanding of and concern for disaster preparedness. We must consider flooding and flood plains in every new rezoning, and invest in adapting the City for our future by investing in storm surge protections like the New York Harbor Storm-Surge Barrier and flooding protections for the subway system.

We can also expand access to transit, make bus rapid transit a reality, and create a massive network of protected bike lanes. We can require updating buildings to increase their efficiency and ban gas stoves in new construction.

Finally, I oppose all new pipeline proposals. New York must divest from our reliance on fossil fuels and become a leader in the use of clean energy. Solar and offshore wind are increasingly affordable forms of renewable energy, with dramatic cost reductions in recent years, and New York State and City must pursue them at every opportunity.

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

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? \*

Due in part to my work at Empire State Development, New York grew to a now nation-leading 29.1% MWBEs for government contracts in 2018. The City lags behind at 24%. I will work hard to get that number over 30% at the City level, and work with the City to use the programs that we used at the state level to improve its numbers. We should bring the Supply & Demand Utilization initiative we had at the state level to the city, and my office can expand outreach for the city.

We must get rid of the sea of red tape that ensnares our procurement process, and push procurement technology into the 21st-Century with a centralized, digital process. We need a more open bidding process with a broader reach, rather than continue the cycle of a narrow field of bidding firms repeatedly receiving contracts. And we should require that every project have more bidders, including minority and/or women owned businesses, before the contracting process can begin.

I will also note, that at the state level, we must increase competition in contracting and match European best practices, particularly in fixing and expanding our transit infrastructure. I will push our elected leaders to drastically reform procurement, as otherwise our subway system will wither and depress our City's economy and way of life. I will advocate on behalf of New York City so that public investment is not a giveaway to contractors.

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

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? \*

Small businesses are an essential part of Lower Manhattan's unique cultural fabric. We must do everything we can to ensure that they survive this downturn and can rebuild and thrive when our public health crisis is past.

As the former deputy secretary of Economic Development and Housing for the State of New York, I am uniquely qualified to help lead on this issue. The most immediately impactful tool we have to protect small businesses is federal aid to direct to grant programs (not low-interest loans). In the medium-term we need to disincentivize commercial leasing practices that benefit big box retailers and big banks.

As Borough President, I will institute a "one-stop shop" program for small businesses, similar to the one I managed at the state-level, to help small business owners navigate our overly bureaucratic system in order to access assistance like grant and loan programs. I will also be a proud advocate for our local businesses who cannot afford the lobbyists their big business competitors can. My office will be open to their concerns and I will speak on behalf of businesses like those in Chinatown that have been excluded from the City's small business loan programs.

To ensure the recovery of commerce and of our city overall, we must focus on livability. Key to this will be saving our public transportation and investing in making Manhattan's public spaces vibrant as our storefronts return to life. I will invest the Borough President's capital expenditures in making those open, vibrant public spaces a reality. In order to ensure our commercial vacancies are filled by small businesses and not merely big chains, we will need action at higher levels of government, including subsidy programs for landlords who rent to small businesses.

Borough President • Section II

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? \*

First, I will use my capital budget to prioritize projects that match my vision for Manhattan: one that is inclusive, sustainable, and vibrant. Second, as discussed below, I will reshape our Community Boards and Community Education Councils to be more reflective of New York City itself, which will impact public decision-making in New York.

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

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

My office will invest resources in Community Board recruitment and public education, seeking to broaden the pool of applicants for appointment to be reflective of our community's diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, language fluency, occupation, and housing type and status. I will also use my social media presence to educate on the role of the board and encourage New Yorkers to apply.

My office will also seek to make Community Boards better resourced and provide them with the tools they need, such as child care and the means to participate electronically, which will allow a greater gender and economic diversity of members. We must consider and understand why people do not participate in order to facilitate participation.

Finally, I will collect and publish demographic data as required by the City Charter, but seek to go beyond what is required so that our communities are fully informed regarding their representatives on Community Boards.



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