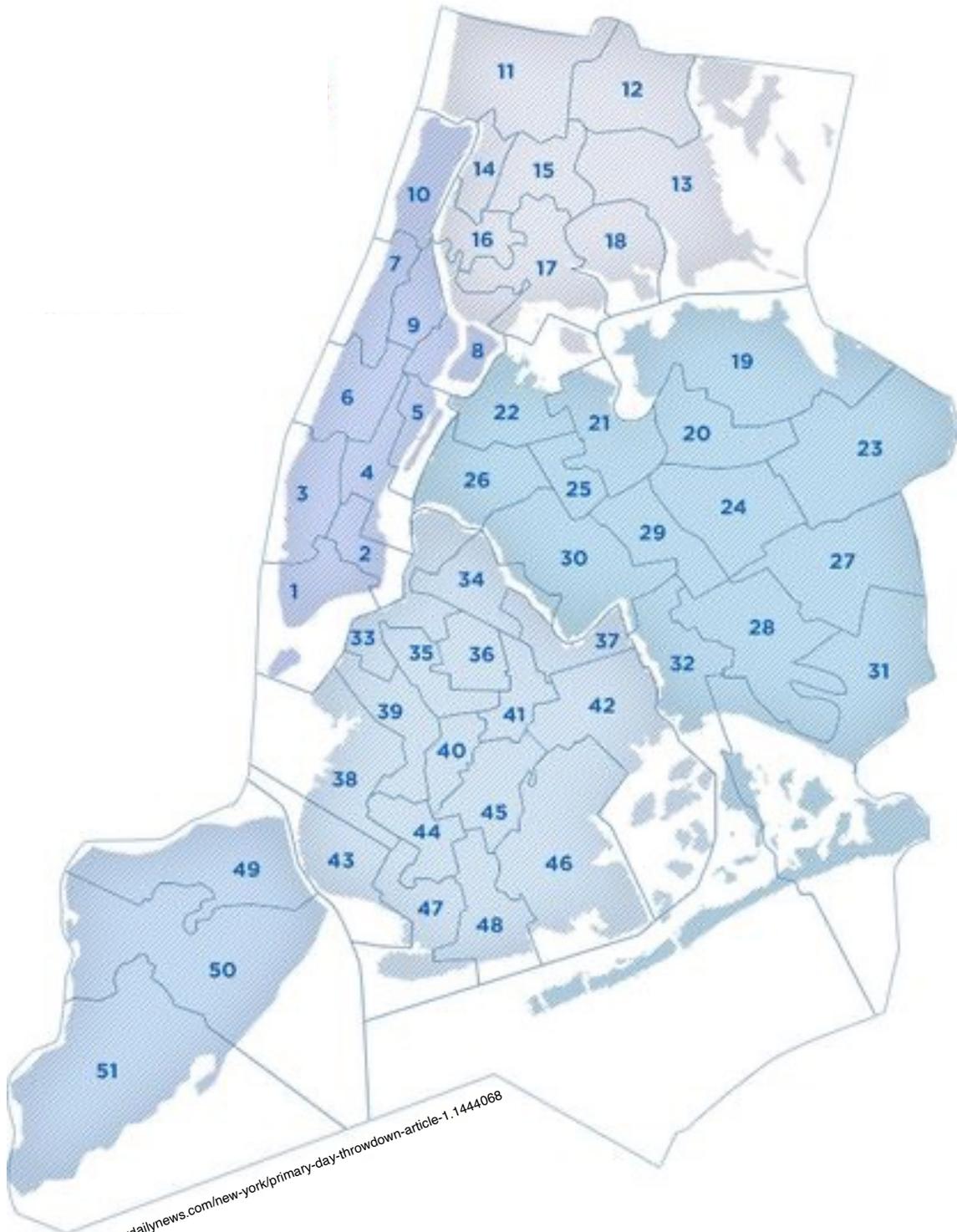


2021 NYC DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY COMPTROLLER CANDIDATE SURVEY



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This candidate survey was created by APA VOICE.

In addition to the information provided in this survey, you can also find more information about the upcoming primary at www.facebook.com/apavoicenewyork.

Dear Community,

We present this voter guide to you as we approach the most important local election for this decade and generation. This June primary, all the citywide seats, including Mayor as well as three quarters of City Council seats, will become open. We will also become the most diverse and dynamic community in the country to introduce a new form of voting called Ranked-Choice Voting. Our coalition members, represented by Asian-American grassroots and community-based organizations across New York City, have been leading extensive GOTV education and outreach for us to have a seat at the table and have the resources to participate in this historic election. We've experienced how the pandemic caused unprecedented pain and destruction in our community, but we can rebuild our city by supporting leaders that reflect our values and committed to change. As immigrants, we know not everyone in our community is eligible to vote. That is why it is even more important for us to participate and show up for those who cannot.

Our work is non-partisan and we do not support any one party or candidate. However, we hope this guide will help you decide how to select candidates and rank your vote with confidence as we vote for the next generation of leaders for our city. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

APA VOICE

Naturalization Service Providers:

ASIAN AMERICANS FOR EQUALITY

212-979-8988

English, Mandarin, Cantonese

CHHAYA CDC

718-478-3848

English, Bangla, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu

CHINESE-AMERICAN PLANNING COUNCIL

718-492-0409 (Brooklyn)

212-941-0030 (Manhattan)

718-358-8899 (Queens)

English, Mandarin, Cantonese

CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

212-274-1891

English, Mandarin, Cantonese

KOREAN COMMUNITY SERVICE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

718-939-6137

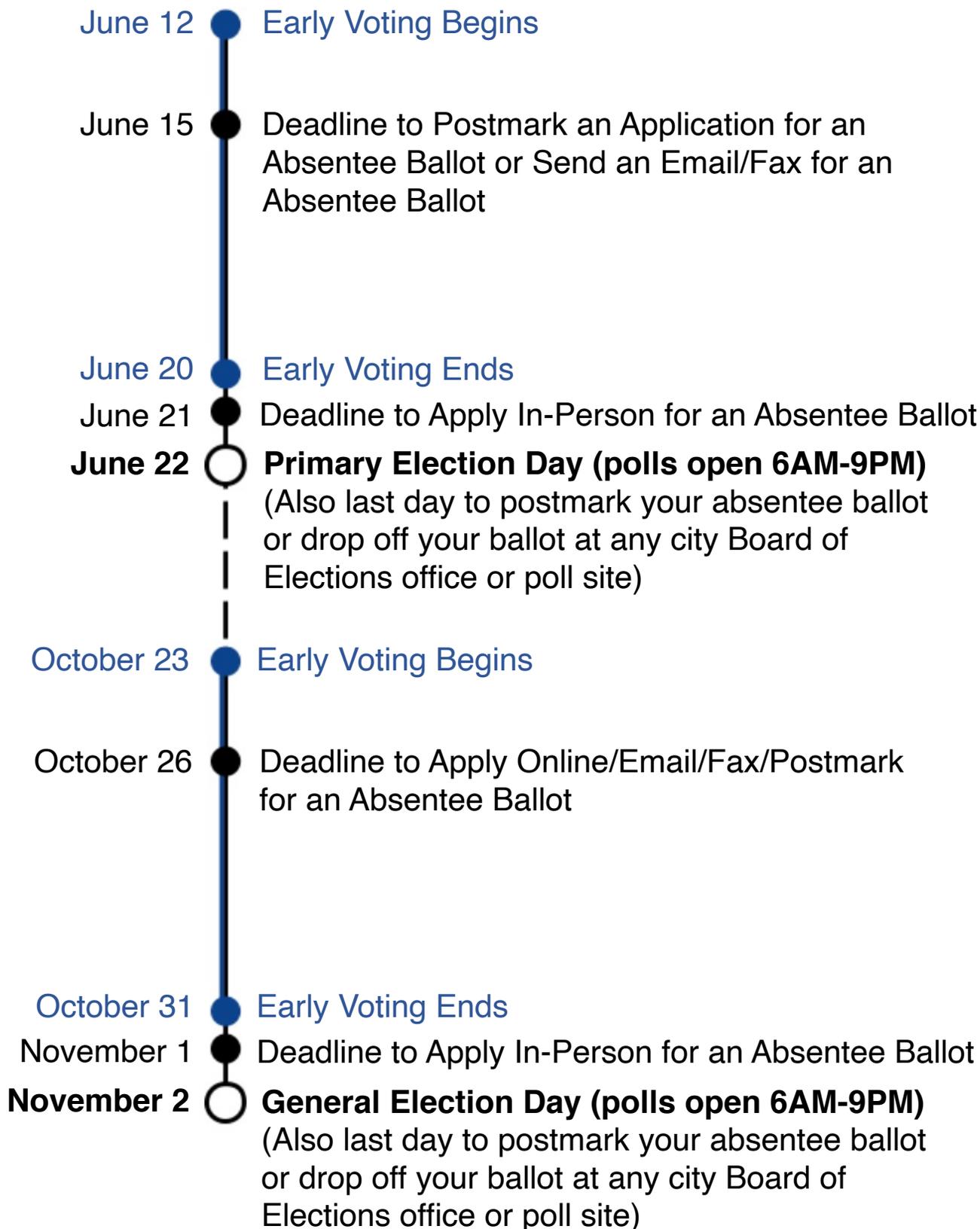
English, Korean

MINKWON CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

718-460-5600

English, Korean, Mandarin

KEY INFO



DISCLAIMER:

This voter guide is part of a campaign by APA VOICE: Voting and Organizing to Increase Civic Engagement. Our goal is to increase awareness and civic participation in the Asian Pacific American community. We are nonpartisan and do not endorse any political party or candidate.

Scan here to find your poll site →



ARE YOU READY FOR THE NYC JUNE PRIMARY ELECTION?



LEARN ABOUT THE NEW WAY TO VOTE

✓ **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**
 This June, rank your vote!
 Instead of selecting just one candidate, you can rank up to five candidates in order of preference. With RCV, the candidate with the most votes and broadest support wins. Your vote becomes more valuable with RCV.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
CANDIDATE A	○	○	○	●	○
CANDIDATE B	○	○	○	○	○
CANDIDATE C	○	○	○	○	○
CANDIDATE D	○	○	○	○	○
CANDIDATE E	○	○	○	○	○
CANDIDATE F	○	○	○	○	○



RESEARCH THE RCV CANDIDATES



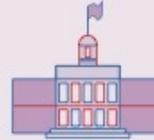
Mayor



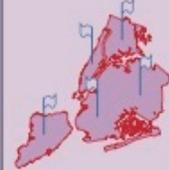
Comptroller



Public Advocate



City Council Representatives



Borough President



MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

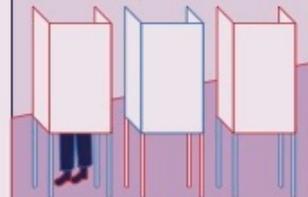
✓ **Vote by Mail**
 June 15, 2021
 deadline to request your ballot



✓ **Early Voting**
 June 12, 2021 – June 20, 2021

June		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

✓ **Election Day**
 June 22, 2021



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

✓ **Vote by affidavit ballot**

SITUATION: Your name isn't in the pollbook.

I would like to vote by affidavit ballot.



✓ **Receive assistance in the voting booth**

SITUATION: I need an interpreter who speaks my language.

I will find you an interpreter here at the poll site, or direct you to call 866-VOTE-NYC.



➔ www.apavoice.org

June Primary Election Q&A

Which offices will be up for election in the June primary?

Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough Presidents, and City Council. Depending on your district, you may also vote for important positions in the judiciary including District Attorney, NYC Civil Court, and NYS Judicial Convention for Supreme Court.

Why is it important to vote this election?

Many seats will be open (ex. 35 out of 51 for City Council), so this is a very big and important election. Whoever wins the upcoming elections will be in charge of drafting city budgets, appointing heads of every city agency, introducing bills, managing the city's pension funds, overseeing criminal prosecutions, and deciding what initiatives and issues NYC prioritizes.

How can I find which City Council district I live in?

Fill out your address using this website: <https://www.mygovnyc.org/>

How do I request an absentee (or mail-in) ballot?

- Online at nycabsentee.com
- Mail or personally deliver a completed application (<https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting-0>) to your county board of elections office (<https://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBoards.html>)...applications in Spanish, Korean, and Bengali are available on the vote.nyc site
- Call 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692) and request an absentee ballot
- If you are a person with a disability that impacts your ability to fill out a paper ballot, you can request an accessible screen-readable electronic absentee ballot at <https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting-0>

You only need to request a ballot once, using one of these methods.

Can I still vote in person?

Yes. In-person voting is still available, both during the early voting period (June 12 - 20) and on Election Day (June 22). You can find your poll site (which may be different for early versus Election Day voting) using <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>. Ballot marking devices will be available at all poll sites and Board of Elections offices. We recommend voting early, if possible, since wait times are expected to be shorter and crowds to be smaller.

How can I find out if my registration is up to date?

The New York State Board of Elections has a useful web tool to check your voter registration status: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov. The tool will provide your current registered address, party affiliation, and your election districts. Note that May 28 was the last day to postmark a registration application for the June primary. Also note that you must be registered and enrolled as a Democrat in order to vote in this June primary election. In the general elections in November, you can vote for any candidate you support.

On Election Day, report any voting problems to 833-225-3331 (833-AALDEF-1) (Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund Voter Hotline).

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING (RCV) Q&A

What is Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV)?

Ranked-Choice Voting lets voters rank multiple candidates in order of preference.

How does ranked-choice voting work?

- Voters rank candidates in the order of their preference: first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on (for the NYC primaries, you can only rank up to 5 candidates)
- When all the ballots are counted, if one candidate gets more than 50% of the first choice votes, they win.
- If no candidate receives more than 50% of first choice votes, the candidate with fewest votes is considered defeated.
- Voters who ranked the defeated candidate as their first choice have their votes counted for their second choice.
- This is repeated until only two candidates remain. The one with the most votes wins.

Why should I rank my vote?

- If your first choice is defeated, your ballot will still count for your next highest choice.
- You can't hurt your favorite candidate by also ranking the other candidates. Those choices only count if your first choice is defeated.
- You can't help your favorite candidate by ranking only one candidate. Your first choice will always count if your favorite candidate has not been defeated.

How do I avoid mistakes on my ballot?

- Mark only one oval per row.
- Mark only one oval per column.
- You do not need to rank any candidate that you do not support.
- If you make a mistake, ask the clerk for a new ballot.
- Ask for help. You won't be the only one with questions.

COMPTROLLER SAMPLE RCV BALLOT

DEMOCRAT RCV

Candidate	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	4 th Choice	5 th Choice
Brian Benjamin	<input type="radio"/>				
Michelle Caruso-Cabrera	<input type="radio"/>				
Zachary Iscol	<input type="radio"/>				
Corey Johnson	<input type="radio"/>				
Brad Lander	<input type="radio"/>				
Terri Liftin	<input type="radio"/>				
Alex Pan	<input type="radio"/>				
Reshma Patel	<input type="radio"/>				
Kevin Parker	<input type="radio"/>				
David Weprin	<input type="radio"/>				

Brian Benjamin (D) – No Response
<https://www.benjamin2021.com/>

Michelle Caruso-Cabrera (D) – No Response
<https://mccfornyc.com/>

Zachary Iscol (D) - Submitted
<https://zachiscol.com/>

Corey Johnson (D) – No Response
<https://www.coreyfornc.com/>

Brad Lander (D) - Submitted
<https://www.landerfornc.com/>

Terri Liftin (D) - Submitted
<https://liftin2021.com/>

Alex Pan (D) - Submitted
<https://www.panfornc.com/>

Reshma Patel (D) - Submitted
<https://www.reshma2021.com/>

Kevin Parker (D) - Submitted
<https://kevinparker2021.com/>

David Weprin (D) - Submitted
<https://www.davidfornc.com/>

Daby Carreras (R) – No Response
<https://votedaby.com/>

Paul Rodriguez (C) – No Response
<https://www.instagram.com/rodriguez4ny/>

ZACHARY ISCOL

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate for New York City comptroller?

As a candidate who has led in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, I am the candidate who has the requisite experience to be an effective Comptroller. From each of these

industries, I gained invaluable tools which will be necessary to thrive as Comptroller. As a Marine Corps officer, I learned how to work with disparate groups and bring them together towards a common goal. As a business leader, I directed large budgets and learned how to monitor and invest multi-million dollar funds. Lastly, as a nonprofit founder, I understood what tools the government has which can maximize nonprofit effectiveness. Through this, I can be a more effectual leader for New York City.

What do you consider to be the three most important responsibilities of the comptroller?

The three most important responsibilities for the Comptroller are proper auditing of the City government, ensuring a high rate of return on the City's 5 pensions, and reducing wastefulness in City departments and agencies in order to make the government more efficient. Through effective audits, legislators will be able to make more informed decisions about how different agencies should be funded (for example, in the past 8 years, the NYPD has only been audited twice which is a disservice to New Yorkers and their elected representatives). Next, generating the highest possible returns for pensioners is vital towards rewarding those who gave their careers to the City. Lastly, reducing waste will improve the quality of services that the City provides New Yorkers.

What will be your top three priorities once you get into office, in terms of issues you would address or actions you would take?

My first priority would be ensuring a universally beneficent economic recovery from COVID. The pre-pandemic status quo of a "Tale of Two Cities" is not acceptable and I will make certain that the New Yorkers who sacrificed the most during the pandemic reap the benefits of the post-pandemic recovery, not just the 1%. My next priority will be auditing the NYPD. The last NYPD audit was in 2015, therefore, if legislators decide to cut the department's budget, they would not have a clear idea of its finances which would reduce the effectiveness of the cuts. Lastly, I will ensure that the City is better prepared for the next crisis- natural, economic, or otherwise- than it has been in the past.

The comptroller audits every city agency and manages the city's five pension funds. What prior experience prepares you to take on this role?

As a business leader and an entrepreneur, I have extensive knowledge in how to manage and invest multi-million dollar budgets. This empirical experience is vital to understanding how large organizations operate and will allow me to pinpoint the areas of city agencies that will benefit most from an effective audit. Furthermore, as someone who has managed and invested large funds, I will be able to generate the highest rate of return possible for the City's pensioners.

In February 2021, the current mayor and comptroller announced that New York's largest pension funds will divest an estimated \$4 billion from fossil fuels. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?

I believe that we must balance investing in sectors that are in line with our values and not forsaking investments which would be beneficial to the pensioners. Therefore, as Comptroller, I will prioritize divesting from industries which are unjustifiable from a financial and values standpoint. At the top of this list is the private carceral system. I believe that this system is ripe for legislative change and thus their returns will decline significantly. Moreover, the private carceral system is not one that New Yorkers support and is one of the main catalysts behind the biased criminal justice system. Thus, I will be able to sell the divestment of the for-profit carceral system to both fiscal and social minded pension trustees.

BRAD LANDER

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate for New York City comptroller?

In my decade in the City Council representing the 39th District and serving as the Council's Deputy Leader for Policy, and in 15 years leading nonprofit organizations before that, I've made government work better by listening to the

voices of New York City's communities, demanding that we live up to our values, understanding that budgets are moral documents, taking a good hard look at the data, understanding how systems work and fail, and building lasting partnerships for meaningful change. Since joining the Council in 2010, I have led innovative work to intervene in the city's economy in ways that have delivered for working New Yorkers and expanded democracy and transparency in city government. My work to raise the floor in the gig- and contingent-work economy has delivered for Uber and Lyft drivers (who are now earning on average \$5000/year more thanks to the living wage law I passed), fast-food workers (who have stable schedules and a path to full-time jobs), and freelancers (who have the strongest protections in the country against wage theft). I understand how to make the economy work for working people, in ways that strengthen our city's ability to flourish overall. I am building a broad, grassroots coalition and have refused contributions from real estate developers and commercial landlords, in addition to for-profit lobbyists, police unions, and fossil fuel executives. We have already released extensive policy plans on economic recovery, audits, housing, climate, and much more. With my progressive vision and my strong record fighting for working families, I am the right person to lead the office in the urgent years ahead.

What do you consider to be the three most important responsibilities of the comptroller?

The pandemic has revealed and exacerbated many flaws in our governing institutions and society. Rebuilding trust in government will be necessary to do any of those things.

I'm running for NYC Comptroller to help our city ¹⁰ rise to meet these challenges. The NYC Comptroller's fundamental responsibility is to instill and maintain public confidence in the workings of government. That means:

1. Telling the truth about our finances so we are informed to make difficult but necessary fiscal choices that lie ahead (with an eye toward Keynesian solutions, rather than austere ones).
2. Making City government work better, and more in sync with our values, by auditing City agencies using new tools and partnerships, improving City contracting and procurement, and engaging communities in strengthening the work of local government.
3. Investing the City's pension funds wisely and consistently with our values, to guarantee city workers have the full pensions to which they are entitled, and to help insure a more equal and sustainable future for them, their families, and their neighbors.

The Comptroller's office has the tools and the responsibility to ensure that we are budgeting wisely, investing strategically, governing democratically, and living up to our commitments to each other and to future generations. As both the city's Chief Financial Officer and its Chief Accountability Officer, the Comptroller leads a staff of over 700 employees to oversee the City's finances, audit City agencies, review City contracts for integrity and accountability, underwrite municipal bonds to invest in the city's physical and fiscal future, enforce prevailing wage and living wage laws, and serve as a fiduciary to the City's five public pension funds. The tools of this office can and must be put to work to help NYC recover from one of its most daunting crises, and to help build a better, fairer, more resilient city that is more prepared for coming crises -- and especially the climate crisis, which we can all see coming, so there's simply no excuse not to get ready.

What will be your top three priorities once you get into office, in terms of issues you would address or actions you would take?

1. My first priority will be to help secure a just recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, that brings our city back to life, confronts racial, gender, economic inequality, and gets us more ready for future crises than we were for this one. I will begin this process with aggressive oversight of American Rescue Plan spending, \$13 billion coming from the federal government which we can use to address the inequalities we've seen so clearly during the pandemic -- but only if we set that as a clear goal, and track it aggressively and transparently.

BRAD LANDER

Democrat (continued)

2. Raise the floor for NYC's workers: I will expand the Comptroller's Bureau of Labor Law to ensure companies pay workers a living wage, raise the floor for workers in the gig economy, establish protections for essential workers, and support apprenticeship and job training programs, especially for young people of color who have lost jobs at high rates during the pandemic. As part of this effort, I will publish an annual "Exploitative Employers Wall of Shame," modeled on the Public Advocate's "Worst Landlords List," to shine a spotlight on employers who abuse their workers through wage theft, dangerous working conditions, abusive scheduling, and unfair labor practices, to make sure we use all our tools to win better conditions for New York City's workers: <http://bit.ly/worstemployers>.

3. Further, to "account for our values" I plan to create teams within the office's Audit Bureau (the largest division of the Comptroller's office) to conduct audits focused on equity, sustainability, and accessibility (including language access). I will have a team conduct "equity audits" to reduce disparities across race, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity citywide, including in how our city agencies deliver services, treat their workers, and hire contractors.

The comptroller audits every city agency and manages the city's five pension funds. What prior experience prepares you to take on this role?

In the City Council, I've taken a data-driven approach in passing transformative legislation to protect tenants, raise pay for workers, reform capital projects management -- and make City government work better. That includes the installation of air conditioners in every NYC classroom and more crossing guards at dangerous intersections, as well as my work to raise the floor in the gig- and contingent-work economy for Uber and Lyft drivers (who are now earning on average \$5000/year more thanks to the living wage law I passed), fast-food workers (who have stable schedules and a path to full-time jobs), and freelancers (who have the strongest protections in the country against wage theft). I understand how to make the economy work for working people, in ways that strengthen our city's ability to flourish overall.

In terms of the role as fiduciary, I don't have direct investment management experience but have managed two nonprofits, financed affordable housing, and have dug in on the details of the city's budget every year during my tenure in the council. I will build a world-class team that takes a thoughtful and integrated approach to maximizing risk-adjusted market returns, determining and adjusting asset allocations, managing risk, minimizing fees to outside investment managers, and investing for the long-term, while remaining attentive to the fund-level and systemic risks posed by dangers including climate change and inequality. I have already have the most detailed plans for how to use the tools of this office to achieve change, including through a strategic plan for responsible investing.

In February 2021, the current mayor and comptroller announced that New York's largest pension funds will divest an estimated \$4 billion from fossil fuels. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?

The Comptroller is a fiduciary, or a custodian, of the pension funds which means that the office must remember whose money it is overseeing: it belongs to the teachers, the firefighters, and the building service workers who power our city. Through a Strategic Plan for Responsible Investment, conducted in partnership with the trustees of the pensions funds and the retirees and workers, I would evaluate assets, including private equity/real estate funds, predatory subprime lending, and corporations with excessively poor labor histories. As Comptroller, I will complete the city's responsible divestment from oil, gas, and coal corporations to help end fossil fuel extraction before we destroy our planet. Additionally, shareholder actions and proxy resolutions are important tools of the Comptroller's Office, especially in coordination with broader grassroots, labor, and environmental organizing. I will build on the work of Comptroller Stringer's Boardroom Accountability Project which has increased proxy access for shareholder proposals, required more disclosure of corporate boards, and required consideration of both women and people of color for every open board seat. Stringer's recent campaign to prevent Exxon CEO Lee Raymond from renewing his seat on the board of JPMorgan provides a powerful example of how the Comptroller can go further to leverage the city's position as a major institutional investor to meaningfully combat the climate crisis through corporate reform. I look forward to building on this work, and taking it in even more ambitious directions. Through my proposal for a Strategic Plan for Responsible Investing, I will undertake a process of education, outreach, and consensus building for action in partnership with the pension fund trustees, and the retirees and workers, to whom these funds belong.

TERRI LIFTIN

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate for New York City comptroller?

I am the best candidate because I am the only one with the experience, competence, and political independence to serve as a proper

fiduciary for all New Yorkers. I have spent the last 15 years as a Chief Compliance and Legal Officer and am the only candidate who has managed pension assets, negotiated contracts, settled lawsuits, and audited budgets. This is the Comptroller's job. I will ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and effectively to deliver the services and quality of life New Yorkers are missing. We need competent leadership now – our city will once again face deficits of \$4 billion in a couple of years. The Comptroller's office demands experience, integrity, and technical competence, not crowd-pleasing popularity.

What do you consider to be the three most important responsibilities of the comptroller?

The three most important responsibilities of the Comptroller are (1) auditing City agencies for waste and ensure they achieve results; (2) protecting City pensions, both for our retirees and to ensure that the City's budget is not used to fund the gap in performance versus statutorily required returns; (3) serving as a check on the Mayor and the City Council to ensure that they are working effectively and efficiently in the best interest of all New Yorkers.

What will be your top three priorities once you get into office, in terms of issues you would address or actions you would take?

My top three priorities are 1. Sharpening the focus and intent of agency audits, with a special emphasis on ensuring agency accountability for eliminating wasteful spending and conflicts; 2. Re-orienting third-party contracts to include measurable performance metrics and payment based on success, together with disclosing key contract terms on the Comptroller's website; and 3. Investing our city pension funds based on the best possible risk-adjusted returns for the City's retirees, reducing the need for taxpayer dollars to close the underfunded gap.

The comptroller audits every city agency and manages the city's five pension funds. What prior experience prepares you to take on this role?

I have actually performed these functions and therefore have the most relevant experience of any candidate. I have advanced degrees in both Law and Economics and have spent the last 15 years working for asset management firms as a Chief Compliance and Legal Officer. In these roles I have managed forensic auditing teams to track expenses, implemented annual contract reviews to ensure integrity in third-party spending, and served as a fiduciary to local, state, and federal pension funds. The firms where I worked focused on getting the best risk-adjusted performance for pensions, and that is exactly what I will focus on as Comptroller.

In February 2021, the current mayor and comptroller announced that New York's largest pension funds will divest an estimated \$4 billion from fossil fuels. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?

Though I fully support taking bold action to address climate change, I do not agree with this approach and believe that divestment can be counterproductive. As we have seen in Europe and more recently the US, instead of divesting, pension funds can exert corrective pressure on corporations, like those in the fossil fuel industry, to push them to more environmentally friendly practices. Provided an investment meets the performance objective, I believe productive change occurs when you are participating rather than sitting on the sidelines. That said, I respect decisions made on behalf of many investors not to invest in industries that manufacture guns or alcohol. Those decisions can be made at the outset of an investment program.

ALEX PAN

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate for New York City comptroller?

I am a non-corporate progressive that is completely powered grassroots and currently not

receiving any donations from PACs and big corporate interests. I'm a candidate running to be a public servant - this isn't another rung on the ladder. Our policies are forged by taking community feedback and merging it with data and value, as showing in our approach to security, our pensions, and advancing equity. My sole job is to make the government work for you.

What do you consider to be the three most important responsibilities of the comptroller?

The Comptroller is the Chief Accountability Officer keeps our city government honest. The most important responsibility now is ensuring an equitable recovery from COVID-19, and spending our funds as we're facing projected revenue shortfalls. We need to continue auditing the NYPD for misconduct while ensuring the safety of our community, bring equitable admissions for our schools, and slash the deficit so future generations don't suffer. As Comptroller, I will importantly advance goals like fossil fuel divestment while ensuring returns for our pensioners as Chief Fiduciary and safeguard city finances as Chief Financial Officer.

What will be your top three priorities once you get into office, in terms of issues you would address or actions you would take?

Everyone wants to have quality housing and food, safe security in our neighborhoods, and effective city services. I'll make sure that's the New York City we get to share. I will combat rising hate crimes and look to increase the efficacy of the NYPD while ensuring equity. I will move to keep our government accountable from American Rescue Plan spending to COVID-19 recovery, and also work with the incoming Mayor on the city's budget. We must tackle quality of life issues at the roots while simultaneously responding in kind, and I will do that as comptroller.

The comptroller audits every city agency and manages the city's five pension funds. What prior experience prepares you to take on this role?

I'm a former groundskeeper at Rutgers Houses, with leadership experience in local nonprofits. I'm the Denison University DCGA Finance Chair, leading the allocation of a ~\$1 million budget and organization audits by the committee. With my management experience, expect our pensions and ~700 person strong Comptrollers Department in strong hands.

In February 2021, the current mayor and comptroller announced that New York's largest pension funds will divest an estimated \$4 billion from fossil fuels. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?

We must move to protect the next generation of New Yorkers, but also ensure strong returns for our hard-working pensioners. In addition to gradual fossil fuel divestments, I intend on divestments from nuclear weapon producers, and other industries that harm our local communities. We may add to these two targets as we review more information in the office.

KEVIN PARKER

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate for New York City comptroller?

I am running for Comptroller to bring my leadership, experience, and expertise to the office to implement Economic Justice for All New Yorkers. For 18 years, I've represented Brooklyn in the New York State Senate, where I've been the

third-ranking member and hold one of the lengthiest records of legislative accomplishments in Albany. I have vast experience in finance in both the public and private sector. Previously I worked on municipal finance in the Chairman's office of UBS PaineWebber, served as a Project Manager for the New York State Urban Development Corporation, and was a Special Assistant to New York State Comptroller H. Carl McCall. And today, I continue my work in finance, having served on the Senate Finance Committee for 18 years and the Banking Committee for 10.

What do you consider to be the three most important responsibilities of the comptroller?

The most important responsibilities of the NYC Comptroller include Conducting performance and financial audits of all City agencies, Serving as a fiduciary to the City's five public pension funds totaling approximately \$253.38 billion in assets and Providing comprehensive oversight of the City's budget and fiscal condition.

What will be your top three priorities once you get into office, in terms of issues you would address or actions you would take?

For my first year in office as Comptroller, I plan to create an Economic Justice Council that consists of public, private and community sector leaders who will conduct neighborhood audits identifying the needs of the community so that in turn I can create policies specifically for them. Also as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee I plan on continuing the fight of creating a more clean energy economy.

My Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) that I continue to promote will not only increase this city's carbon footprint by 100% of clean energy but it will also create 150,000 more jobs. I also plan on investing pension funds into our small business and increase this city's Minority Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) utilization rate to 30% by making M/WBE certification easier and increase their biddings on contracts.

The comptroller audits every city agency and manages the city's five pension funds. What prior experience prepares you to take on this role?

As champion of economic development, education, energy, domestic violence issues and human and civil rights, I represent the intrinsically diverse 21st Senate District in Brooklyn. I was appointed Majority Whip of the New York State Senate and serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy & Telecommunications with the added distinction of being its longest serving member. With a strong background in the financial services arena, I have gained invaluable experience in the world of finance at UBS PaineWebber where I worked in government affairs of the Chairman's office and focused on broad issues of importance to the financial service industry. As Project Manager with the New York State Urban Development Corporation, I financed women and minority-owned businesses and promoted community business redevelopment. As the Special Assistant to former New York State Comptroller H. Carl McCall, I managed intergovernmental relations in New York City, and was the liaison between the Comptroller, city, state, and federal elected officials. An experienced educator, I have been a professor of both African-American Studies and Political Science at several CUNY and SUNY colleges and received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Service from Penn State and holds a Master of Science Degree from the New School for Social Research in Urban Policy and Management. Currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Political Science at The Graduate Center, CUNY.

In February 2021, the current mayor and comptroller announced that New York's largest pension funds will divest an estimated \$4 billion from fossil fuels. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?

New York State's pension funds have a history of responsible investment. The funds are already in the process of divesting from fossil fuels, and have policies against investing in companies operating private prisons, boycotting Israel, or doing business in Iran or Sudan. As New York City Comptroller I will institute a like minded policy with the city's pension funds.

RESHMA PATEL

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate for New York City comptroller?

I bring a unique perspective to the role of Comptroller and NYC government. I have the technical expertise for this role. I have nearly two decades of

public finance experience, I served as financial advisor to the Comptroller's office, and I have overseen corporate and non-profit audits. No other candidate has this direct experience. To truly lead in this office or any, you need an understanding of community needs. I serve as vice-chair of the budget committee on Manhattan Community Board 6 and I served as board co-chair of Chhaya Community Development Corporation in Queens. I serve on the board of Dance/NYC, I have worked with survivors of domestic violence for over 20 years, taught financial literacy and promoted civic engagement. This volunteer work has given me an understanding of the lived experience of many New Yorkers. Something that is critical in order to serve NYC's varied communities.

What do you consider to be the three most important responsibilities of the comptroller?

The role of the NYC Comptroller is to hold our city government accountable, provide oversight and improve performance. The three most important duties are managing the City's debt and implementing NYC's capital program, serving as fiduciary of the City's pension funds, and auditing all of NYC's agencies.

What will be your top three priorities once you get into office, in terms of issues you would address or actions you would take?

My top three priorities will be:

1) Fix the contracting process – non-profits that provide critical services for NYC are often left waiting months to get paid, I will streamline this process and make it more transparent.

2) Improve agency audits –rather than address problems after they have occurred, I would require we collect data on an on-going basis to truly determine impact. I would audit across agencies to eliminate redundancies. I would look to see that resources are allocated to those communities that have been historically underfunded.

3) Move forward initiatives that create equity - by providing capital to MWBE businesses, making financial services available to the unbanked without any fees, and requiring the companies NYC invests in be committed to diversity.

The comptroller audits every city agency and manages the city's five pension funds. What prior experience prepares you to take on this role?

I have almost two decades of public finance experience. I worked for 8-years as financial advisor to the Comptroller's office. During this time, I helped NYC generate millions of dollars of savings. The NYC pension fund is a defined benefit plan. Retirees are guaranteed a certain payment regardless of pension fund returns. If there is a shortfall, it comes from tax revenues which means we have less for social services in our city budget. My experience with the pension fund comes from looking at how to manage this risk. I have worked on audits for non-profits and small businesses. I created a digital platform to monitor and evaluate the impact of programs for non-profits. I will apply this experience to audits of NYC agencies.

In February 2021, the current mayor and comptroller announced that New York's largest pension funds will divest an estimated \$4 billion from fossil fuels. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?

In 2021, only 3 of the five NYC pension funds committed to divesting from fossil fuels. As Comptroller, I would aim to get the other two pension funds on board with this important policy. Nuclear weapons present a danger and directly conflict with NYC's values. While they only make up about .25% of NYC pension fund investments, it makes a statement for NYC to fully divest from companies that manufacture nuclear weapons. As Comptroller, I would advocate that the pension fund trustees move forward with this divestment policy.

DAVID WEPRIN

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate for New York City comptroller?

Our city is facing the biggest economic crisis we have seen in a generation. We need leadership forged from experience and know-how. I served this city as the Chair of the

Finance Committee in the City Council for eight years and through two major economic crises, both the post 9/11 crisis and the 2008 financial crisis. That experience, coupled with my past decade's work in Albany, uniquely prepares me for the position. We need someone in this job who will not balance the budget on the backs of working class New Yorkers and instead, start to build a better, brighter future for all New Yorkers.

What do you consider to be the three most important responsibilities of the comptroller?

The NYC Comptroller is the fiscal watchdog for the people of New York City, first and foremost. This means ensuring that taxpayer dollars are going toward and being used for taxpayer benefitting programs and services. Maintaining the public pension fund is of the utmost importance because we need to ensure that previous generations of New Yorkers are protected and taken care of in return for their service to our city. Finally, contract oversight is incredibly important for our city's budgetary priorities. There are hundreds of city contracts that are signed every year, but no follow up on their necessity. It's important for the Comptroller to streamline the contracting process and ensure accountability to the people of New York.

What will be your top three priorities once you get into office, in terms of issues you would address or actions you would take?

The chief responsibility of the Comptroller is to be a fiduciary. My top priority is to protect the pensions of our over 700,000 pensioners. Additionally, the audit power of the comptroller is being severely underutilized. The city charter demands that an audit be conducted of city agencies at least every four years. We need to have annual audits of city agencies to identify waste and ensure accountability. Finally, affordable housing in our city is declining at a time when it needs to be growing to meet the commensurate growing need. Using our over \$250 billion pension funds, we can partner with the private sector to incentivize middle-class affordable housing construction, creating much needed housing, thousands of jobs, and a strong rate of return on the city's investment.

The comptroller audits every city agency and manages the city's five pension funds. What prior experience prepares you to take on this role?

I have a great deal of experience in both the private and public sectors wherein auditing is a major aspect of the role. In 1983, I was appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo to the Deputy Superintendent of Banks and Secretary of the Banking Board of New York State, a position that was responsible for regulating financial firms in NYS. I was a Vice President at Stern Brothers, among other firms on Wall Street, where I specialized in municipal bonds and at that time, I was elected to serve as Chairman of the Securities Industry Association. But more than anything else, my eight years of experience as the Finance Committee Chairman in the City Council best prepares me for this role.

In February 2021, the current mayor and comptroller announced that New York's largest pension funds will divest an estimated \$4 billion from fossil fuels. From what types of assets that NYC currently holds would you divest?

The pension fund portfolios are massive and we will look carefully at all the assets to identify areas where we can afford to divest. Blanket divestments, however, can pose a fiduciary danger to the shareholders, one that can have huge consequences. The number one job of the Comptroller is to secure strong returns for our pensioners who have worked their whole lives to make our city the gem it is today. If we fall below 7%, then the city has to fill that gap and at a time when the city is already facing \$4 billion to \$5 billion deficits over the next 4-5 years, we must be prudent when making decisions that have such wide ranging effects.