

2021 NY CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY DISTRICT 1 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 and the District 1 candidates in the candidate forum hosted on March 10, 2021. You can find the recording 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

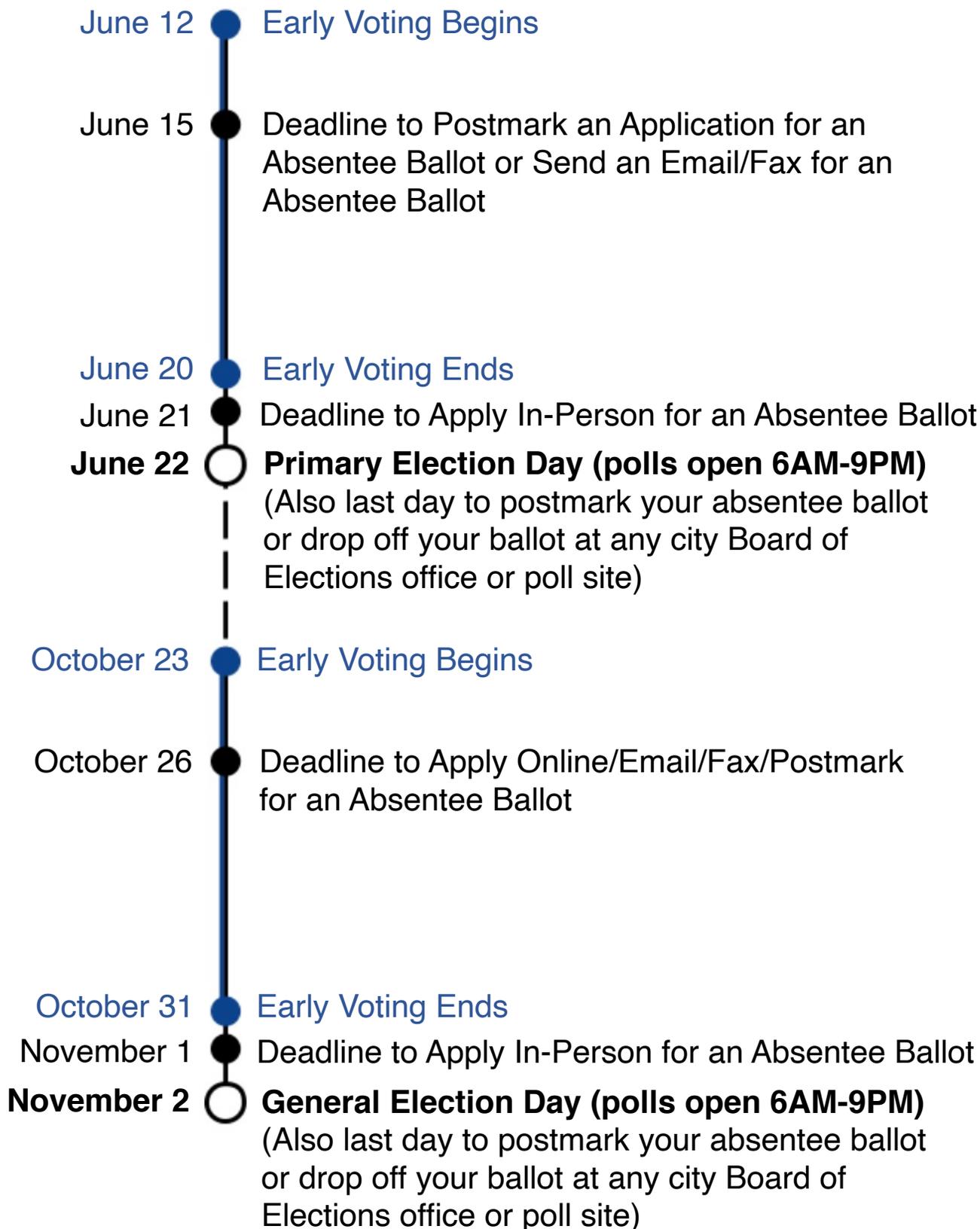
English, Korean

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



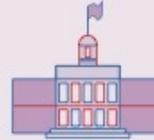
Mayor



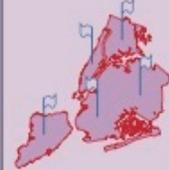
Comptroller



Public Advocate



City Council Representatives



Borough President



MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

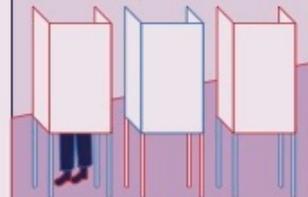
✓ **Vote by Mail**
 June 15, 2021
 deadline to request your ballot



✓ **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.

DISTRICT 1

SAMPLE RCV BALLOT

DEMOCRAT RCV

Candidate	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	4 th Choice	5 th Choice
Susan M. Damplo	<input type="radio"/>				
Sean C. Hayes	<input type="radio"/>				
Susan T. Lee	<input type="radio"/>				
Gigi Li	<input type="radio"/>				
Jenny L. Low	<input type="radio"/>				
Maud Maron	<input type="radio"/>				
Christopher Marte	<input type="radio"/>				
Denny R. Salas	<input type="radio"/>				
Tiffany Winbush	<input type="radio"/>				

Susan M. Damplo (D) – No Response

<https://www.damploforcouncil.com/>

Sean C. Hayes (D) – No Response

<https://www.seanhayes4nyc.com/>

Susan T. Lee (D) – No Response

<https://www.susanleenyc.com/>

Gigi Li (D) - Submitted

<https://www.gigili.nyc/>

Jenny L. Low (D) – No Response

<https://www.jennylow.nyc/>

Maud Maron (D) - Submitted

<https://maudmaron.nyc/>

Christopher Marte (D) - Submitted

<https://www.votemarte.com/>

Denny R. Salas (D) – No Response

<https://www.dennysalas.com/>

Tiffany Winbush (D) – No Response

<http://tiffanyfornyc.com/>

GIGI LI

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate to represent City Council District 1 in City Council?

I'm the only candidate who has experience with the four core responsibilities of a councilmember-- budget, legislation,

constituent services and land-use. I've organized rallies, town halls, and policy briefings that resulted in tripling the number of summer jobs for youth citywide, and doubling the number of Beacon school-based community centers. I was on the forefront of the fight for universal pre-k and the Community Schools initiative, which continue to serve our community today. During COVID-19, I co-founded Chinatown's first food pantry (which has grown to serve four boroughs) to tackle food insecurity. I've been fighting for my community throughout my career, and now I'm ready to bring my passion for Lower Manhattan to the City Council.

How will you unify the district's diverse communities under one inclusive policy agenda?

I plan to have a strong focus on trilingual capacity (English, Spanish, and Chinese; spoken and written) and making sure that services are accessible to all constituents. I would prioritize hiring staff that reflects the make-up of the district in different ways, such as hiring NYCHA residents. My top priority is affordable housing, including protecting existing units and building more, fully funding NYCHA, and creating more paths to affordable home ownership.

In your view, what are the underlying causes that drive hate crimes and violence against marginalized community members? How would you address them as a member of City Council?

There are so many different factors that are put into play here but they're all rooted in systemic racism and ignorance. When we hear public figures like our former president use racist rhetoric, it inspires their followers to do the same and act on it. We should also be taking hate crimes seriously and advocating for victims. I will advocate for culturally competent services and language access for victims of hate crimes. I will also work with the DA to ensure crimes are investigated thoroughly to address the root causes of hate crimes. I believe we need to implement ethnic studies in our schools and as a member of the City Council, I will be fighting at the forefront.

How would you lead an equitable COVID-19 Recovery strategy for all residents? Please address how you would address language barriers and serve Limited English Proficient communities in this response.

Every city-led initiative has to be accompanied by multilingual outreach-- what we've witnessed with the initial vaccine rollout is a perfect example of our city neglecting our immigrant and refugee communities. I will support any initiatives and/or bills that will provide multilingual communications to our communities. Asian Americans in particular, have the highest rate of linguistic isolation of any group in NYC (42%), meaning that no one over the age of 14 in the household speaks English well or at all. During my tenure as chair of Community Board 3, I instituted a practice of multilingual outreach for Community Board events to include Spanish and Chinese.

How do you plan to engage, connect with and remain accountable to your constituents when you're elected?

My trilingual office will be accessible to my constituents at all times. I will also utilize social media to engage with my constituents and express my positions on various topics in the district.

MAUD MARON

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate to represent City Council District 1 in City Council?

I am uniquely qualified to represent District 1 because I am willing to stand up for what we currently need; leadership that is honest, bold, and has integrity. My three priorities are

simple, yet crucial. We need safe streets, excellent schools for all NYC students, and thriving small businesses. I believe that only I can achieve these critical goals. Furthermore, the neighbors that I speak to want to bring back respectful public dialogue around complex issues. I am uniquely qualified to lead this charge because of the open-minded way with which I approached important but difficult problems throughout my campaign. I will demonstrate that we can care about things deeply, disagree, but still be neighbors in our community together.

How will you unify the district's diverse communities under one inclusive policy agenda?

District 1 is an incredibly diverse area with distinct neighborhoods, communities, and needs. I commit to addressing each issue individually, with input from relevant residents and communities, rather than holding to sweeping general policy beliefs. Landmarking issues in SoHo may vary from those of the East Side or Chinatown, etc. Above all else, however, I commit to conducting all policy conversations carefully and respectfully, listening to input from all sides, in order to encourage local participation and beneficial public dialogue.

In your view, what are the underlying causes that drive hate crimes and violence against marginalized community members? How would you address them as a member of City Council?

The rise in hate crimes across our city, and especially in our district, is despicable and one of my top priorities for the City Council. While I remain committed to combating any entrenched forms of hatred, the rise in hate crimes and race-based violence can be more quickly addressed by solving the alarming decline in public safety. My first priority as a council member will be to address rising violence. Instead of defunding the police, I will fully-fund the Hate Crimes unit and a gun removal unit. I also support adding more NYPD patrols in neighborhoods and subways. We may not quickly solve racism, but we can certainly address its manifestation in violence.

How would you lead an equitable COVID-19 Recovery strategy for all residents? Please address how you would address language barriers and serve Limited English Proficient communities in this response.

Firstly, I will advocate for much needed COVID-19 recovery aid and support measures for the city to take similar actions. Having secured that funding, I would direct my office to liaise between small businesses and the bureaucratic systems that disperse funding. We saw with PPE loans that some neighborhoods, particularly those of vulnerable communities, were cut-off from relief they needed to survive. I would hold myself and my office personally responsible for ensuring that all state, city, and federal money actually makes its way to those it is designed to help — especially within our immigrant communities.

How do you plan to engage, connect with and remain accountable to your constituents when you're elected?

My priority in office will always be to listen to my constituents, whether or not they agree with me. Too many of the voters that I speak with are discouraged by local government because they feel like their representatives do not actually listen to them. I would hope to combat that by being a representative and having an office that always prioritizes the voices of my constituents and is more focused on serving their needs than mine. My office will be structured to hear any and all comments, my social media will be available to all, and my inbox will always be open.

CHRISTOPHER MARTE

Democrat



Why are you the best candidate to represent City Council District 1 in City Council?

I have been on the frontlines of our neighborhood's biggest issues. I am the only serious candidate who organized against the jail from the start, and

didn't work for an elected official that voted for the plan. When Chinese tenants on the Bowery were illegally evicted, I was their first phone call because they had no one else to turn to. I have the necessary experience on the ground, the trust of working people, and the political will to stop the displacement of some of the last immigrant communities in Manhattan.

How will you unify the district's diverse communities under one inclusive policy agenda?

I'm proud of the work I've done to unify this diverse district. Though I fell short by 200 votes in 2017, I received votes from every neighborhood because I ran on a platform that brought everyone together. From parents in SoHo to restaurant workers in Chinatown, we need the City Council's power over land use to be used to help our communities prosper, not luxury developers. I've worked with residents, small business workers and owners, and neighbors, across district 1 to push back against overdevelopment, advocate for community-based plans, and demand protection of our waterfront from the next superstorm.

In your view, what are the underlying causes that drive hate crimes and violence against marginalized community members? How would you address them as a member of City Council?

There's no short answer, but the clearest way the City Council can address an underlying cause is by stopping its perpetuation of racist policies against marginalized communities. Whether it's building a new jail in Chinatown, drawing school district lines to cut out communities of color, or pitting races against each other when we all just want good schools for our kids, I am running for this position to end discriminatory policies. If the City can get away with targeting and neglecting marginalized communities, then individuals are more likely to mimic this behavior because it seems acceptable.

How would you lead an equitable COVID-19 Recovery strategy for all residents? Please address how you would address language barriers and serve Limited English Proficient communities in this response.

An equitable recovery has to focus on helping the hardest hit communities, and then putting in safety nets so these areas have long-term support. Many of Chinatown's small business owners and workers were in trouble even before COVID. Wage theft is still too common and rent is driven higher by luxury development speculation. I am committed to helping minority-owned small businesses apply for aid programs and helping workers organize for fair pay and conditions. We also need to make sure seniors, children, and others who suffered from extreme social isolation, and the loss of loved ones, get the mental health support they need from culturally competent and community-based organizations.

How do you plan to engage, connect with and remain accountable to your constituents when you're elected?

We have had one Town Hall in the past 12 years our Councilmember has been in office. I am committed to holding at least two a year to take feedback from the changes people want to see in the neighborhood, and then to report back on the progress of those changes. As the candidate with the deepest roots in our district's vibrant and vocal activist community, I expect these grassroots organizers to constantly hold me accountable while we work together to help our district get the resources it deserves. I also am eager to enact Participatory Budgeting so that the community can have a vote on how our discretionary funds are allocated.