

2019 NYC Ballot Proposals Voter Guide



Proposal 1 Elections

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

Instead of just voting for their one preferred candidate, voters rank in order of preference their top choices, up to five, in primary in special elections for the offices of Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President and Council Member.

- ▶ The initial count would look only at their first choices, and if one candidate receives a majority (at least 50% of the vote) that candidate would win. If no candidate receives a majority, then the rankings could be used to eliminate those with the least votes.
- ▶ Without these rankings, when no candidate for citywide office receives more than 40% of the vote in a primary election, the two leading candidates participate in a runoff primary election. No such runoff occurs for City Council and Borough President.

Timing of special elections. Gives more time for a special election to fill a vacated City office.

Redistricting deadlines. Adjusts the deadline for the redistricting of Council districts, which is done every ten years after the Census, to ensure that boundaries are established in a timely manner.

✓ **Our position: YES**

Allowing voters to rank their candidates will be good for democracy and the city budget.

Proposal 2 Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)

- ▶ Adds appointments by the Public Advocate, Mayor, and Speaker to the CCRB.
- ▶ Sets a minimum budget for the CCRB.
- ▶ Requires the NYPD to explain when CCRB recommendations are not followed.
- ▶ Allows the CCRB to investigate false statements by NYPD officers.
- ▶ Allows the CCRB to delegate subpoena power to its Executive Director.

Pros:

- + Increases police accountability.
- + Expands CCRB authority over investigations of police misconduct.
- + Diversifies CCRB appointments.

Cons:

- Grants a public board more oversight than the Internal Affairs Bureau.
- May discourage police officers in their job.

✓ **Our position: YES**

This will improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the NYPD.

Proposal 3 Ethics and Government

- ▶ Bans former officials from their previous agency or branch of government for 2 years.
- ▶ Replaces 2 Mayoral appointments of the Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) with appointments by the Comptroller and Public Advocate.
- ▶ Lowers limit on donations by COIB members to political campaigns.
- ▶ Requires that the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) program report to the Mayor.
- ▶ Requires that the City Council approve the Mayor-appointed Corporation Counsel.

Pros:

- + Slows the revolving door of officials becoming lobbyists.
- + Places checks and balances on Mayoral power on the COIB and Corporation Counsel.
- + Limits abuse of power by limiting political contributions by COIB members.
- + Codifies the current practice of having the M/WBE program director report to the Mayor.

Cons:

- Doesn't go far enough. COIB members should be barred entirely from political contributions.



Our position: YES

These measures promote transparency and prevent potential abuses of power, without undermining our mayoral form of government.

Proposal 4 City Budget

- ▶ Establishes a Rainy Day Fund.
- ▶ Sets minimum budgets for the Public Advocate and Borough Presidents.
- ▶ Requires that the Mayor send tax revenue estimates to the Council earlier.
- ▶ Requires that the Mayor send city budget changes to the Council within 30 days.

Pros:

- + Allows the city to save up for future budget shortfalls.
- + Protects the Public Advocate and Borough President budgets from politics.
- + Increases checks and balances on the Mayor, by giving the public and the City Council more transparency with regard to the city budget.

Cons:

- Requires a change in state law before a Rainy Day Fund can actually be established.
- Reduces Mayoral power with respect to the Council on issues related to the budget.



Our position: YES on Proposal 4

This measure would protect the future fiscal health of the city, guarantee independent Public Advocate and Borough President budgets, and increase city budgeting transparency.

Proposal 5 Land Use

- ▶ Requires that the affected Borough President, Borough Board, and Community Board have earlier access to Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) development project summaries.
- ▶ Extend the time period during which Community Boards can review ULURP applications.

Pros:

- + Increases transparency and oversight on development by the Borough President and Community Boards.
- + Gives Community Boards more time to review ULURP projects during the summer.

Cons:

- Extends the length of time that applicants must wait before finding status of ULURP applications.



Our position: YES on Proposal 5

These amendments don't come close to achieving need planning reforms, but they are both small steps that extend community involvement in land use planning.



Where did these proposals come from?

The City Council created a Charter Revision Commission, which crafted these proposals after a year of public hearings and expert testimony.