

The influence of developers and their lobbyists on land-use decisions,

New York City and New York State Government acts as a nearly wholly owned subsidiary of the real estate development syndicate. Unfortunately, the oversight and regulatory bodies who make decisions regarding land-use are appointed and controlled by politicians who have a vested stake in preserving the status quo when it comes to developers getting their way.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to get fresh perspectives, and fresh voices like mine whose experience is not in the existing dysfunctional system, but bold and effective advocacy that gets results like our zoning challenge for 200 Amsterdam Avenue. (A New York City first in many ways.)

We need to join with other neighborhoods and communities in putting together a city-wide coalition to fight the overt corrupting influence of pay-for-play that has a stranglehold on representative government in this city.

My longstanding policy platform:

Stop corruption and the culture of pay-to-play

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I believe that government officials are public servants, and should serve their constituents, not their own self-interest.

- Reform campaign finance laws so that “doing business with the city” includes ALL individuals who make their living in the Real Estate Syndicate.
- We need to strengthen our ethics laws. Over \$15 million dollars of your money was spent on lawyers to defend corruption investigations against current city officials.
- End pay-to-play, slush funds, and the selling of our quality of life to the highest bidder.

Publish all city contracts. -crowd-sourcing the fight against corruption costs next to nothing and helps undo some of the disenchantment our young people have about politics that keeps them away from the polls.

In addition to corruption and pay-for-play, we need to proactively move forward with the positive steps of transparency, accountability, and clean government that services the voter, not the lobbyists’ clients.

My longstanding policy platform:

Better, smarter city government.

As Council Member, I will empower you through accessible transparency.

- Expensive new programs need cost/benefit analysis. DeBlasio has increased spending by 20% from \$70 Billion to \$85 Billion. We need to see more tangible benefits from increased spending.
- Digitize the City Budget. The city should make the online City Budget searchable, indexed, and organized in order to access the relative information contained within does not live up to the claim of transparency.
- It is time for NYC to use design/build contracting. Design/Build combines the design and construction into a single contract. Many other cities like Denver have adopted this approach with great success. Advantages of design/build are increased accountability, better budget management, faster project completion, and quality control.
- Fight for home rule, so that NYC can determine its own future better. We know what is best for our city, Andrew Cuomo should not be behaving like a dictator and overruling city decisions made by elected representatives from every borough.
- A New York State Constitutional Convention is necessary to pass the broad ethics reform and broadened voter access our leader in Albany have repeatedly blocked.

What I believe is so dire about the current state of our government is that it threatens democracy itself. Democracy requires participation, that is the single defining requirement of the survival of self-rule. Barely one million out of 8.4 million people participated in the last citywide contested election. The lack of participation puts the underlying democratic bedrock of this country is under enormous strain.

The average person does not see the reason or value in voting when it is crystal clear that even at the lowest rung of local government like City Council, our leaders are unwilling to act as public servants, but rather choose to use the office for personal political gain. We all realize our government is in crisis, it is time to act boldly to shake things up to restore representation to the voter while taking it away from the special interest.