

## Mayoral Candidate | Eric Adams



#### **BIOGRAPHY**

Like so many New Yorkers, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams grew up with adversity—and overcame it.

As one of six children, born in Brownsville and raised in South Jamaica by a single mom who cleaned houses, Eric and his family did not always know if they would come home to an eviction notice on the front door or food on the table. And when he was beaten by police in the basement of a precinct house at 15, Eric faced a life-changing act of injustice.

But instead of giving into anger, Eric turned his pain into purpose and decided to change the police department from within. He joined the NYPD and became one of its most outspoken officers, calling out racism and bias in the department and pushing for major reforms.

As a founder of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, Eric would often police the streets in a bulletproof vest one day during the high-crime 1980's and 1990's and protest bad behavior by cops the next, marching side-by-side with his fellow civil rights advocates. He rose to the rank of captain, helping to build the first computerized system for tracking crime in the city, which led to historic gains in public safety.

Eric's efforts to change policing began his lifelong work to improve and protect New York. From the NYPD, he moved on to the State Senate, where he represented sections of central and Brownstone Brooklyn. In Albany, Eric built winning coalitions to advance New York City's values and goals, helping to push through measures to protect tenants and workers, combat gun violence, end the NYPD's abuses of stop and frisk, and advance human rights — including marriage equality. He also became the first person of color to chair the Senate's Homeland Security Committee.

Eric was then elected Brooklyn Borough President in 2013 by putting together a diverse coalition of Brooklynites to become the borough's first Black leader. As the representative of one of the nation's largest counties, Eric fought tirelessly to grow the local economy, invest in schools, reduce inequality, improve public safety, and advocate for smart policies and better government that delivers for all New Yorkers. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck the city, Eric moved a mattress into his

## **Top Priorities**

- Government
- Economy
- Education
- Healthcare
- Safety
- Housing

office and worked around the clock to deliver donated meals and PPE to essential workers and vulnerable New Yorkers, demanding government produce more equitable relief.

In addition to continuing to fight for struggling New Yorkers and a better quality of life for all, Eric became a national leader on public health policy after learning he had developed Type 2 diabetes. Following his diagnosis, Eric completely changed his diet and his body, reversing the disease and launching a personal mission to educate New Yorkers about preventative care and wellness. His work has already led to successful proactive public health efforts across the city and increased education in schools and with high-risk populations in lower-income areas, partnering with civic organizations and health experts.

Eric is a lifelong New Yorker. He received his master's degree in public administration from Marist College, and is a graduate of New York City Technical College and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is also a proud product of New York City public schools, including Bayside High School in Queens. Today he lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant, where he has resided for over 20 years.



# Mayoral Candidate | Kathryn Garcia



### **BIOGRAPHY**

Kathryn Garcia is a lifelong New Yorker and a public servant. She has 14 years of government experience delivering services that New Yorkers rely on every day. Kathryn has been the go-to crisis manager for our toughest moments as a City. During COVID-19, she created an emergency food program that has delivered 200 million meals to New Yorkers in need. She served as incident commander during Hurricane Sandy. She stepped in to protect children from lead poisoning in our public housing. Kathryn knows how to build a healthier, safer, more liveable New York. She's done it before and she's ready to do it again.

## **Top Priorities**

- Recovery
- Climate Change
- Housing that Heals
- Public Safety
- Police Reform
- Education
- Transportation
- Health



## Mayoral Candidate | Maya Wiley



### **BIOGRAPHY**

Maya Wiley has spent her entire life overcoming trauma and fighting for our communities and against structural racism. Despite the hardship of losing her father, a civil rights leader, at 9 years old, she went on to overcome the challenges of being a Black student at Dartmouth College and Columbia Law School. Her life and experiences lead her to become a Civil Rights lawyer. After graduating, Maya worked for the NAACP where she fought to protect a maternity ward in Harlem. Wanting to give back, Maya founded a non-profit and spent the next dozen years dedicated to addressing racism, and later as legal counsel to the mayor. In the 5 years since she resigned from the de Blasio administration, she has taught at The New School and held NYPD officers accountable as the volunteer chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board. She now lives in Brooklyn with her long-term partner, Harlan, and their two daughters.

Maya is a leader in city government and in spurring democratic change. As Counsel to the Mayor, she delivered for New York City on civil and immigrant rights, women and minority owned business contracts, universal broadband access and more. In the five years since leaving City Hall she held police accountable as Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board, and worked to improve public education as a Co-Chair of the School Diversity Task Force. At the New School, where she served as a University Professor, she founded the Digital Equity Laboratory on universal and inclusive broadband.

Maya is a veteran of both the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and the ACLU, was a former Legal Analyst for NBC News and MSNBC — where she argued against Trump's attacks on our civil liberties and democratic norms — and was the founder and president of the Center for Social Inclusion. Maya was also Senior Advisor on Race and Poverty at the Open Society Foundations, the largest funder of human rights work the world over.

Maya Wiley is committed to a New York City where every New Yorker can afford to live with dignity, that's why she is running for Mayor. She will fight for New Yorkers of all races, all religions, all classes, all types; so that no matter who we are or how we see ourselves, we can find a home here. Maya is the progressive choice for New York — her vision is a New York that rises from the ashes of twin pandemics — coronavirus and systemic racism that denies opportunity to people of color. New York must rise together; rising above hate, rising from joblessness to dignity, rising from homelessness to

## **Top Priorities**

- Universal Community Care
- Gun Violence Prevention Plan
- Education
- Small Business
- Housing
- Climate Change
- Ethics in Government
- Public Safety
- Arts, Culture & Tourism

hope, rising from an affordability crisis to communities that sustain all of us.

This is within our reach, but it requires courageous leadership that fearlessly confronts the realities New Yorkers face. Leadership that marshals all of the government's resources to make history, not deals; and that transcends the business-as-usual governmental tinkering to make truly transformational progress. New Yorkers cannot afford the politics of least resistance and deserve leadership that will beat a path to shared prosperity — to become one city, rising together, out of the ashes, and into a future we build and live together.



## Mayoral Candidate | Andrew Yang



#### **BIOGRAPHY**

I moved to Manhattan when I was 21 years old, right after college. I remember driving in my parents' Honda Accord full of belongings to my first apartment, which I shared with a roommate. The city felt enormous, but arriving here felt like a victory.

I went to my friends' shows. I was at the Garden for Larry Johnson's 4-point play. I watched the towers fall, and was part of the crowd that silently walked uptown away from the smoke.

I came of age, fell in love, and became a father here. My wife, Evelyn, is from Queens; we went on our first date at Amy's Bread on 9th Avenue. Both my sons were born at St. Luke's Hospital. I used to bike them to school on the West Side Highway, but they've been on Zoom lately.

I started a small business that failed, but the energy of this city kept me going. Eventually, I became CEO at an education company in Koreatown, and we grew it to be among the largest in the country. I started a non-profit here called Venture for America, which helps young people build small businesses across the nation, particularly in struggling cities. President Obama named me a Champion of Change and an Ambassador of Entrepreneurship. When I ran for President, I set our offices here, and recruited our team from all five boroughs.

It was here we built an anti-poverty movement.

Whatever I aspired to and whatever I accomplished, it was because of New York City.

Seeing New York the way it is now hurts my heart. The thought that I might be able to contribute to my city's revival is both an incredible responsibility and opportunity. What we do in the months ahead will determine our city's trajectory for decades to come.

That's why I'm running for mayor. I want to serve my community in this time of need and bring bold, innovative solutions to the table. I want to lead us forward as we rise above our current politics. I want to see every last New Yorker thrive in our City.

## **Top Priorities**

- An Anti-Poverty City
- Affordable Housing
- Addressing the Homeless Crisis
- Health & Wellness
- Jobs & Infrastructure
- Reviving Arts, Culture, Entertainment & Nightlife
- Education
- Equity
- Public Safety & Quality of Life
- Transportation
- Government Accountability

We will run the largest basic income program in US history and we will rebuild the economy and how the City is run so that it doesn't simply restore the status quo, but creates a City that works for all New Yorkers.

This will be a spirited race. But if we put forward a positive vision — that we understand the problems people face and that we are here to help — we will win. Most importantly, we will rebuild and restore the city we love — not as it was, but how it deserves to be.

The Democratic primary is June 22nd, 2021. I can't wait for you to join us on our campaign to revive our city, our home.



# Comptroller Candidate | Brian Benjamin



### **BIOGRAPHY**

Brian Benjamin was born in Harlem to an immigrant mother who had come to this country with hopes for a better future for her son. Brian has always believed in New York City as a place where anybody can achieve their dreams, and after earning a degree in Public Policy from Brown and a Master's in Business from Harvard, Brian returned to Harlem to start his career.

Brian has devoted himself to fighting for causes he believes in, and to applying his financial expertise to better his community. That's why he led the fight to pass the Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold act in the wake of ongoing police violence in minority communities. It's why he joined a company to develop over one thousand units of affordable housing in New York. And it's why he is running for Comptroller – to better New Yorkers' lives by drawing on his unique skillset and life experience.

Brian served as Chair of his Community Board before being elected to represent Harlem and the Upper West Side in the State Senate in 2017. In the Senate, Brian serves as Chair of the Budget and Revenues Committee and has distinguished himself as a leader in criminal justice reform and tenant protections. Brian sponsored a bill to prevent landlords from drastically increasing rent on rent-stabilized apartments, and he successfully fought to divest New York's public pension funds from for-profit prisons.

With his own parents retired on a pension, Brian knows how critically important the role of Comptroller is. He is ready to apply his passion for making our city a just and affordable place to live and his financial expertise to benefit all New Yorkers.

Brian lives with his wife and daughter in Harlem.

## **Top Priorities**

- Redefining Police Accountability and Public Safety
- Affordable & Equitable Housing
- Closing the Gender Pay Gap
- Climate & Sustainability
- Small Business
- Reorganizing the Office of Comptroller to Serve the People
- Investigating Waste in NYC Agencies
- Audit
- Pension Management





# Comptroller Candidate | Michelle Caruso-Cabrera

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

New York City is facing an unprecedented economic crisis, and I believe I have the financial experience, and the steady, unifying leadership needed to revive the city's economy, get New Yorkers back to work, and bring New Yorkers together from every walk of life across the five boroughs.

With families across the five boroughs struggling to survive, streets lined with shuttered stores and restaurants, and over a million New Yorkers out of work, it is clear that New York City needs new and better leadership.

I spent over two decades covering financial crises as a financial analyst and reporter at CNBC, and I know what it takes to bring a city like New York back from the brink.

As your Comptroller, I will listen, learn, and bring great ideas, smart decisions and creative solutions to the table and lead a recovery that will not leave anyone behind (as too many have in the past).

I am running for NYC Comptroller to help New York City bounce back stronger, more inclusive, and more prosperous than ever before for ALL New Yorkers!

## **Top Priorities**

- Economic Recovery
- Managing the Pension Funds



## Comptroller Candidate | Corey Johnson



### **BIOGRAPHY**

I was raised in public housing where my mother, a homeless services provider, and my father, a Teamster, instilled in me the values of community service and political engagement. After entering public service as an activist fighting for equal rights and advocating for tenant protection, I served in my local community board and eventually became the youngest person to chair a community board in the five boroughs.

I was elected to the Council in 2013. After my first term, my fellow Council Members elected me to lead the Council as Speaker in 2017. As Speaker, I fought to protect low-income tenants facing eviction, implemented reduced price MetroCards for New Yorkers living in poverty, and led the fight for historic criminal justice reforms. After COVID hit, the Council passed legal protections for small businesses and tenants, opened streets to pedestrians, and created the city's wildly successful outdoor dining program.

Our city needs leadership that's always fighting to do the most good for the people who need it most, and I will never stop working to make life better for all New Yorkers.

## **Top Priorities**

- COVID-19 Relief
- Impactful Oversight and Audits
- Affordable Housing
- Jobs
- Green Infrastructure
- Small Business
- Accountability
- Racial and Gender Equity
- Supporting Workers



# Comptroller Candidate | Brad Lander



### **BIOGRAPHY**

Brad is a member of the City Council from Brooklyn. As a co-founder of the Council's Progressive Caucus, Brad helped bring participatory budgeting to New York City and has a track record of partnering with community advocates to win data-driven, innovative campaigns to protect workers, expand tenants rights, hold the NYPD accountable, and win safer streets.

Prior to serving in the City Council, Brad was a community planner and housing advocate. He spent 15 years in the nonprofit sector as the director of two organizations, the Pratt Center for Community Development and the Fifth Avenue Committee. He lives in Park Slope with his wife, Meg Barnette, President and CEO of NonProfit New York, and their children, Marek and Rosa.

Brad is running for NYC Comptroller to help our city rise to the challenges we're facing.

The Comptroller has a critical role to play in helping to rebuild a more equitable economy and prepare our city to confront the challenges of the future. The office has the tools and the responsibility to ensure we are holding government accountable to its promises, to public sector retirees and to future generations of New Yorkers. As Comptroller, Brad will put those tools to work to help NYC recover from one of its most daunting crises, and build a better, fairer, and more resilient city.

## **Top Priorities**

- Build a Just and Durable Recovery
- Hold City Government Accountable
- Secure NYC's Future



## Comptroller Candidate | David Weprin



#### **BIOGRAPHY**

A NEW YORK CITY STORY

Born and raised in Queens by his Cuban-immigrant mother Sylvia, and his Brooklyn born father, Saul, David was brought up in a household that cherished diversity and deeply appreciated the opportunities afforded to immigrants and hardworking families in New York City.

David's mother, Sylvia, was a teacher who taught biology, chemistry and Spanish at public high schools in Queens. His father, Saul, was an attorney and World War II Coast Guard veteran, who after becoming involved in issues affecting their community, was elected to the State Assembly. Saul later became Speaker of the State Assembly, where he was an early opponent of the death penalty, vocal on women's reproductive rights and pushed the first LGBT rights bill through the State Assembly.

David's parents instilled in him the key values which still define his life to this day: hard work, determination to do what is right, and respect for others. Growing up in a household with a teacher and a community leader, David was inspired to lead a life in public service at an early age, and after graduating from Jamaica High School and SUNY Albany, David received his law degree from Hofstra University.

#### THE EXPERIENCE WE NEED IN OUR COMPTROLLER

David's knowledge of public finance, and his involvement in the civic life of New York City led him to be appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo as Deputy Superintendent of Banks and Secretary of the Banking Board of New York State during his first term in office. As part of his tenure, David was a watchdog of nearly \$2 trillion, regulating more than 3,000 financial institutions and financial service firms in New York State, including international banking institutions, mortgage brokers and bankers.

After David's tenure as New York State Deputy Superintendent of Banks, David went back into the private sector, working in public finance, helping local governments raise the capital necessary for critical projects such as infrastructure, healthcare and education, and served as Chair of the Securities Industry Association of New York.

### FIGHTING FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

David soon put his financial background back to work for New Yorkers, as he was elected to the New York City Council and served as the Chair of the Council's Finance Committee for eight years. In this key role, David was responsible for balancing the city's budget, allocating millions of dollars for non-profit organizations, and ensuring that the City's legislative priorities were fully funded.

#### **Top Priorities**

- Economic Recovery
- Affordable Housing
- Education
- Climate Leadership for a Greener NY
- Retirees & Their Pensions
- Fixing the MTA
- Small Business
- Safeguarding Tax Dollars

During the 2008 financial crisis, David was instrumental in locking away \$2.5 billion to ensure that future retirees would receive quality health care. And in an effort to help homeowners reduce their tax burden, he worked with Mayor Bloomberg to allocate more than \$1 billion back into the pockets of middle-class homeowners.

With the city battling a pandemic that has dealt a significant blow to the City's budget and our economy, the next Comptroller needs to have the experience – and the heart – to get the City back on track. David Weprin is the only candidate running for Comptroller with public finance experience, or who has ever balanced a City budget.

David will ensure that working and middle class families are protected and that the City's budget is never balanced on the backs of hardworking New Yorkers. That means protecting public pensions, ensuring our first responders and city workers do not face mass layoffs – especially after having served on the front lines during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic – and making New York City affordable once again for everyone, not the privileged few. As the son of an immigrant teacher and public servant, this isn't just rhetoric for David, it's a promise.

#### A CHAMPION FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

After leaving the City Council, David was elected to the State Assembly to continue his work fighting on behalf of New Yorkers. In the Assembly, David has authored and co-sponsored groundbreaking legislation that has helped seniors, children, low-income families, veterans and small businesses.

In one of his proudest legislative accomplishments, David authored the Adoptee Bill of Rights, which permits an adopted child to access their birth certificate and medical history records upon turning 18 years of age. The legislation also allows birth parents to give a contact preference upon giving up their child for adoption. Since becoming law, David's bill has reunited thousands of families. Further, after ten years of stalling in the state Legislature, David was able to pass into law the Religious Garb Bill, which protects New Yorkers' religious liberties, regardless of their creed. And in one of the most gratifying moments of his career, David served as a key vote and supporter of New York's successful passage and enactment into law of Marriage Equality.

David currently serves as Chair of the State Assembly's Committee on Correction, and previously served as Chair of the Assembly's Task Force on People with Disabilities. David currently is a member of the Puerto Rican-Hispanic Task Force and Asian-Pacific Islander Task Force, and is Co-President of the National Association of Jewish Legislators. The father of five children, and grandfather of six, David and his wife Ronni, live in Holliswood, Queens.

#### AS COMPTROLLER, DAVID WEPRIN WILL BUILD BACK NEW YORK CITY'S ECONOMY

In his career as a public servant, David has been a voice and a champion for the most vulnerable, devoting his life to service and making government more responsive, effective and accountable. COVID-19 has affected New York in unimaginable ways, particularly small businesses, the lifeblood of our City. In an effort to support these small businesses and save them from financial disaster, David successfully pushed for the reopening of partial indoor dining.

He knows that we need a real fighter who will both stand up to Albany and Washington when New York City doesn't get its fair share. And to make sure that our City safeguards our hard-earned tax dollars during this unprecedented fiscal crisis caused by COVID-19, David will expand the audit function of the Office of the Comptroller to audit all City agencies on a regular basis, saving millions of dollars through efficiencies.

There's a lot of hard work ahead, and as our next Comptroller, David will get our City back on track.