

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES ARE ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE — ASK THEM WHERE THEY STAND

The New York City Council introduces and passes laws every year that directly impact the lives of all New Yorkers. The Council also ensures that the city budget funds critical services and oversees city agencies so their actions and policies are not at odds with our values.

All 51 New York City Council seats will be on the ballot this year. When your candidates ask for your vote this fall, be sure you ask them where they stand on a number of vital measures – measures that put New Yorkers in a stronger position to resist Washington’s anti-civil liberties agenda. The primary election is September 12 and general is November 7.

ASK THE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES:

WILL YOU MAKE POLICING ENCOUNTERS SAFER AND MORE TRANSPARENT BY SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO KNOW ACT?

Decades of aggressive and discriminatory policing have shattered trust between the NYPD and communities of color. With President Trump and Attorney General Sessions praising stop-and-frisk, promising “tough on crime” policies, and threatening to force local law enforcement to carry out their destructive agenda, rebuilding relationships between police and communities is more important than ever.

The Right to Know Act (Int. 182-B and Int. 541-A) will help rebuild trust and confidence in the NYPD by increasing transparency and accountability in everyday interactions. It will require officers to identify themselves when interacting with the public, to tell the person why that encounter is happening and to explain when someone has the right to refuse a search. These common sense reforms can deescalate tense encounters, making them safer for both officers and the public.

DO YOU SUPPORT INCREASED RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT POSITIVE DISCIPLINE ALTERNATIVES AND USE SUSPENSIONS ONLY AS A LAST RESORT?

Every child deserves to attend a safe, high quality school where students, teachers and staff are treated with dignity and respect. Instead, excessive use of suspensions, summonses and arrests – often for minor misbehavior – creates hostile environments where children are criminalized.

Instead of kicking students out of schools, alternative discipline practices hold students accountable for their conduct while teaching them the skills they need to resolve conflicts and ultimately succeed in life. They intervene early and actively seek to reduce the odds of future misbehavior.

WILL YOU BALANCE PRIVACY AND TRANSPARENCY WITH PUBLIC SAFETY BY SUPPORTING OVERSIGHT OF THE NYPD AND PASSAGE OF THE POST ACT?

With little or no official oversight, the NYPD deploys military-grade surveillance technologies that sweep up the private information of thousands of innocent New Yorkers. The public typically has no idea what these devices are, whether the NYPD gets warrants or whether there are written policies that safeguard the sensitive information obtained. New Yorkers are also in the dark about how much of this information ends up in the hands of the federal government, allowing the Trump Administration to target vulnerable communities.

The Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology Act (Int. 1482), or POST Act, will give New Yorkers basic information about whether surveillance technologies are being used lawfully and in a way that truly promotes public safety. Bringing the NYPD out of the shadows and requiring certain information to be made public will allow the lawmakers and the public at large to engage in meaningful conversations about balancing public safety and privacy.

**WHAT WILL YOU DO TO
PROTECT IMMIGRANT NEW
YORKERS?**

When local law enforcement gets involved in federal immigration enforcement, it harms public safety. That's not just the NYCLU's position; it's also the view of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Presidential Task Force on 21st Century Policing, the New York State Sheriff's Association, the New York State Police and the New York State Attorney General. It makes immigrants less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations. Immigrants fear that they or their family members will be questioned, detained or deported.

New York City and the NYPD already refuse to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement agencies in most cases despite threats from Washington to cut off funding. Our elected officials must continue to stand with immigrant New Yorkers in the face of this bullying. They must continue to resist unprecedented and unconstitutional efforts to coopt local officials into carrying out an inhumane deportation agenda.

**WILL YOU STAND UP FOR
NEW YORKERS' FREE
SPEECH BY SUPPORTING
THE RIGHT TO RECORD ACT?**

The First Amendment protects your right to film and photograph police activity, one of the most direct forms of public oversight and a potentially critical check on official misconduct. You have the right to record an NYPD stop-and-frisk encounter, immigration officers making an arrest and any other government activity in a public place. But this right isn't always respected. Police officers – who are now being outfitted with body-worn cameras to record you – often don't like cameras being turned in their direction. Officers frequently interfere with or retaliate against people who record their actions.

The Right to Record Act (Int. 1235) will prove that our city takes the First Amendment seriously and will make it easier for New Yorkers to hold officers accountable when their right to record police activity is violated.

