

Hi, I'm Norman Siegel and I'm a candidate for Public Advocate.

The Public Advocate's job is to hold City government accountable to the people they serve, with the power to conduct investigations into allegations of corruption, mismanagement, and neglect in City government. The Public Advocate should be your advocate, but this office has never reached its potential. This is not acceptable and you deserve more.

I want to transform the office of Public Advocate, and with my leadership, this office will have a 24/7 open door policy ready to meet the needs of the people.

My decision to seek this office comes from my deep love of New York. I was born here and raised in Brooklyn. Neither of my parents graduated from high school, but

thanks to solid jobs and union benefits, they were able to provide a good life with real opportunities for their kids. I received a great education from gifted, dedicated teachers in New York's public schools. With their encouragement and inspiration, I continued my education at Brooklyn College and NYU Law School.

My career was shaped by the times. I became a lawyer at what so many of us thought were the height of the struggle for civil rights and civil liberties. What I have come to realize is this struggle is still with us - and we must be ever vigilant that our hard-won rights are not compromised by special interests.

My record stands as a testimony to my commitment. I have represented residents and small business owners against the threat of eminent domain. I have fought side-by-side with parent groups, demanding more control of their children's education.

I have successfully defended the First Amendment rights of both groups and individuals. I have worked with the families of 9/11 victims to obtain official records and to demand state-of-the-art communications equipment for our firefighters.

I am a supporter of gay rights, including same-sex marriage. For a dozen years I co-taught a course on civil rights and race relations at my alma mater, New Utrecht High School.

I was part of the legal team that challenged the extension of term limits and I am still litigating the issue of City Council controlled "slush funds" to fictitious organizations. Now I want to put my experience to work for you.

These are tough, challenging times for all of us. A weakened economy impacts on

every facet of our lives, affecting job opportunities, education, public safety, transportation, health care and affordable housing. When decisions are made in City Hall or in the City Council chambers, will your voice be heard? Who will be representing your interests? With so much at stake, New Yorkers need a powerful, effective Public Advocate, someone who is not afraid to challenge the status quo or demand more for the working men and women of this great City.

As Public Advocate, I pledge to take this office out of the Municipal Building and into neighborhoods all across New York, conducting Town Hall meetings and opening satellite offices in all five boroughs. This is your City, and as your Public Advocate, I will be there to hear your concerns, understand your problems and help find workable solutions. You should not settle for less.

Our founders had a wonderful idea - a government for and by the people, guaranteeing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all, not just the privileged few. It is deeply troubling to see many of these fundamental rights and liberties still compromised because of issues of race, class, age, sexual orientation, disabilities or gender. We must not accept this as the status quo. We can and must do better.

Working together, we can build a 21st Century community that embodies those ideals and opens a world of opportunity to our children and grandchildren.

In a participatory democracy, your vote is your voice. So please remember to vote.

See you at the polls.

Thank you.

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