



MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 10, 2025 HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Charter Revision Commission was held at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York at 5 p.m. on June 10, 2025.

Acting Chair Sharon Greenberg called the meeting to order at approximately 5:09 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Chair Richard Buery¹
- Julie Samuels
- Diane Savino
- Leila Bozorg
- Grace Bonilla
- Carl Weisbrod
- Valerie White
- Kathryn Wylde
- Anita Laremont²

¹ Attended by teleconference.

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The Acting Chair provided introductions and an overview of the Charter Revision Commission's role and explained ways for the public to provide testimony in-person or virtually at public hearings and by submitting written testimony online.

The Acting Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Commissioner Weisbrod made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting of the Commission held May 28, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bonilla, and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commissioners present.

The Acting Chair opened the floor for public testimony, limited to three minutes per speaker.

- Council Member Frank Morano testified in support of a single round non-partisan ranked choice voting ("RCV") elections.
- Howard Slatkin, Executive Director of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council testified about reforms to the land-use process.
- Barika Williams, Executive Director of the Association for Neighborhood Housing and Development testified about reforms to the land-use process.
- Louisa Chafee, Director of the New York City Independent Budget Office, testified in support of making the Mayor's Office of Contract Services an agency within the City Charter and changing PBB rules.
- Grace Rauh, Executive Director of Citizens Union, testified in support of even-year elections.

- Eric Budd, testified in favor of even-year elections.
- Greg Dennis, testified in support of a system that would result in more than two candidates appearing in general elections.
- Carl Unegbu, testified in support of open primaries.
- Brendan Griffith, Chief of Staff at the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, testified against a “jungle-primary” system.
- Perris Straughter, New York City Council Director of Planning and Land Use, testified about changes to the land-use process.
- John Kaehny, Executive Director of Reinvent Albany, testified in support of open primaries and even year elections.
- Dan Schnur, testified in support of even year elections.
- Marla G. Simpson, testified in support of reforms to the land-use process, the process of updating the city map and address assignment.
- Rob Richie, President of Expand Democracy, testified in support of RCV in a general election with a run-off.
- Lee Drutman, Senior Fellow at New American, testified against open primaries as a means of increasing voter turnout.
- Scott Kendall, of Alaskans for Better Elections, testified in support of a top four open primary system.
- Gwen Mandell, testified in support of open primaries.

- Diane Buscemi, testified in support of open primaries.
- Zack Viera, testified in support of reforms to the land-use process.
- Cormac Slade Byrd, testified in support of reforms to the land-use process.
- Cleo Acevedo, testified against jungle or open-primary systems.
- Chanel Porter, testified in support of changes to the CCRB.
- James Inniss, testified against a jungle primary proposal.
- Carrie Lobman, testified in support of open primaries.
- David Mirtz, testified in support of moving to even year elections and against a “jungle primary.”
- Jennifer Ng, testified in support of open primaries.
- Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, testified in support of election reform.
- Celina Avalos Jaramillo, testified in support of even-year elections.
- Amy Tsai, testified against an open primary system.
- Jaidev Phadke, testified in support of open primaries.
- Louise Sosa, testified against a “jungle primary” system.
- Sidharth Ghoshal, testified in support of open primaries.
- Sebastian Hallum Clarke, testified in support of reforms to the land-use process and an open primary system.
- Kimberly Cruz, testified in support of informed and engaged voter participation in elections and against parkland alienation.

- Pamela Stewart-Martinez, testified that closed-primaries do not impact voter turnout.

After hearing from all those members of the public in attendance who wished to speak, Chair Greenberger closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by the Chair at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Brodheim
New York City Charter Revision Commission