



**MINUTES FOR THE JULY 7, 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 Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, at 5 p.m. on July 7, 2025.

Chair Richard Buery called the meeting to order at approximately 5:16 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Sharon Greenberger, Vice Chair
- Leila Bozorg, Secretary
- Shams DaBaron
- Anita Laremont
- Dr. Lisette Nieves
- Anthony Richardson
- Julie Samuels
- Diane Savino
- Carl Weisbrod
- Valerie White

- Kathryn Wylde

The Chair provided introductions and an overview of the Charter Revision Commission's role and explained ways for the public to provide testimony. Upon motion, the minutes from the meeting of the Commission held June 23, 2025 were unanimously adopted by all Commissioners present.

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

- Comptroller Brad Lander testified in favor of land use reform proposals and even-year elections; the Comptroller testified against eliminating partisan primaries.
- Council Member Joann Ariola testified in support of the City Council's continued role in land use decisions and against moving to even-year elections and open primaries.
- Council Member Frank Morano testified in opposition to top two open primaries and moving to even-year elections.
- Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers testified in support of the City Council's continued role in land use decisions.
- Public Advocate Jumaane Williams testified about concerns with the implementation of land use reforms, in support of greater electoral

participation, and in favor of greater authority for the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB).

- Ahmed Tigani, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, testified about lengthy delays caused by the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) and in favor of land use reforms to create more housing.
- Michael Sandler, Associate Commissioner of Neighborhood Strategies at the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, testified in favor of land use reforms to create more housing and maintaining community input alongside expedited processes.
- Sophie Sharps, Associate Director of Policy at the Campaign Finance Board, testified in favor of moving elections to even years and combining election dates when possible, to reduce voter fatigue.
- Candis Tall, Executive Vice President and Political Director of 32BJ SEIU, testified in favor of creating more housing but expressed an intent to submit potential amendments to address concerns with Commission proposals.
- Kyron Banks, Deputy Political Director of 32BJ SEIU, testified in favor of increasing voter turnout and against open primaries.

- Jim Walden, an independent candidate for mayor, testified in favor of top-two open primaries.
- Michael Piccirillo, Area Standards Manager for the New York City District Council of Carpenters, testified in opposition to housing reforms without worker protections, against even-year elections and open primaries, and in favor of Council land use oversight.
- Jasmine Gripper, Co-Director of the NY State Working Families Party, testified against open primaries.
- Kai Rosenthal, Co-President of League of Women Voters of NYC, testified in favor of implementing open primaries and moving to even-year elections to increase voter turnout.
- Annemarie Gray, Executive Director of Open New York, testified in support of land use reforms to address the city's housing crisis and against including ballot questions about elections.
- Samir Lavingia testified in support of land use reforms to address the city's housing crisis.
- Dr. Jessie Fields, Open Primaries Board Member, testified in favor of top-two open primaries to include independent voters.
- Grace Rauh, Executive Director of Citizens Union, testified in support of moving to even-year elections and open primaries.

- Tricia Thomson of the Communications Workers of America testified in opposition to open primaries.
- Karen Wharton of Rank the Vote NYC testified in opposition to open primaries.
- Barika Williams, Executive Director of the Association for Neighborhood Housing & Development, testified in favor of land use proposals to address the city's housing crisis and maintaining community input.
- Jerrod Delaine, CEO of Delaine Companies, testified in favor of changes to ULURP to address the city's housing crisis.
- Oscar Pocasangre, senior data analyst at New America, testified against top two open primaries.
- Nia Alvarez-Mapp, Lead Organizer for Rank the Vote NY, testified about the success of ranked choice voting in NYC and advocated for voter education and outreach.
- Fabien Levy testified in favor of open primaries.
- John Ketcham, Director of Cities at the Manhattan Institute, testified in support of land use reforms, even year elections, and open primaries.
- Council Member Gale Brewer testified in opposition to open primaries and against changes to ULURP.

- Jeremy Joseph, data director at the NY State Civic Engagement Table, testified against open primaries.
- Asher Ross, Senior Strategist at New York Immigration Coalition, testified against open primaries.
- Leon Bell, Director of Public Policy at the NY State Nurses Association, testified against open primaries.
- Emily Skydel, an organizer with Food and Water Watch, testified against open primaries.
- Zakiya Ansari, Co-Executive Director of the Alliance for Quality Education, testified against open primaries.
- Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause NY, testified against putting a question on open primaries on the ballot this year.
- Elias of Unite NY testified in support of open primaries.
- Johana Pulgarin, District Manager of Brooklyn Community Board 1, testified in support of community board input in land use decisions.
- Catherine Du, a student at Hunter College High School, testified against open primaries.
- Heather Beers-Dimitriadis, Chair of Queens Community Board 6, testified in opposition to land use reforms that reduce community input.

- Susan Stetzer, District Manager of Manhattan Community Board 3, testified in opposition to proposed ULURP reforms.
- Allen Cox testified in favor of open primaries.
- Angelo Pis-Dudot, a spokesperson for the Democratic Socialists of America NY chapter, testified against top-two open primaries and advocated for further analysis of other primary systems.
- Torsha Childs testified in favor of open primaries.
- Howard Edelbaum testified in favor of open primaries.
- Gia Lowe testified in support of granting the CCRB more oversight powers and increased access to data.
- Rafael Moure-Punnett, District Manager at Bronx Community Board 6, testified in favor of local input on land use decisions.
- Danny Battista testified in favor of open primaries.
- Sheryl Williams testified in favor of open primaries.
- Yvonne Lee testified in favor of open primaries.
- Neferkara Aaron testified in support of granting the CCRB more oversight powers and increased access to data.
- Jeffrey Aaron testified in favor of open primaries.
- David Green of Unite NY testified in favor of open primaries.
- Edward Brady testified in favor of open primaries.

- Richard Ronner testified in favor of open primaries.
- Maria Danzilo, Executive Director of One City Rising, testified in favor of open primaries.
- Sidharth Ghoshal testified in favor of open primaries.
- Keanu Arpels-Josiah of Fridays for Future testified in opposition to open primaries.
- Shane Moynihan testified in favor of open primaries.
- Julien Segura testified in favor of digitizing the city's map and instituting semi-open primaries, and against ULURP reforms, even year elections, and top two open primaries.

After hearing from members of the public, Chair Buery closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by the Chair at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lily Richman  
New York City Charter Revision Commission