

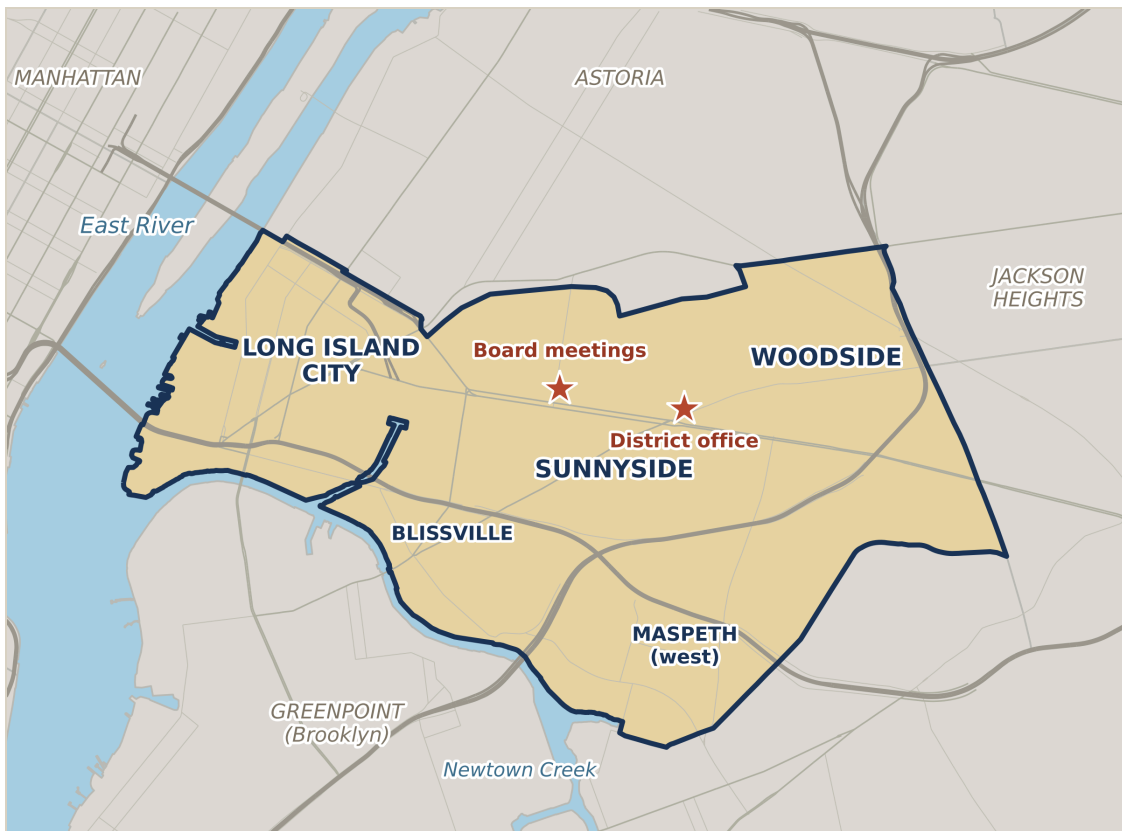
Know Your Community Board

Sunnyside · Woodside · Long Island City · Blissville · Western Maspeth

◆ What is a community board?

New York City is divided into 59 community districts, and every district has a community board. The board is the part of city government closest to the block where you live. Queens Community Board 2 represents Community District 2, on the western edge of the borough. It reaches from the East River across Long Island City, Sunnyside, and Woodside, then south into Blissville and a part of western Maspeth.

The board has up to 50 members, and all of them are volunteers. The Queens Borough President appoints them, with input from the City Council members who represent the area, for two-year terms. Members live in the district, work here, or have some other strong tie to it. That means the people who review local plans and speak up for the neighborhood are your neighbors. A small professional staff runs the district office day to day and does the work of helping residents and working with city agencies.



If your home or business sits inside the outlined area, Community Board 2 represents you.

<p>Community District 2 in brief</p>	<p>138,000 residents, up about 22 percent since 2010</p>	<p>64% of households mainly speak a language other than English at home</p>	<p>8 subway lines, plus 3 LIRR stations, buses, and two ferry landings</p>	<p>Nearly half of residents were born outside the United States</p>
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◆ What the board does

Most of what the board does is advisory. It cannot force a decision, but agencies and elected officials pay close attention to what it says, and its regular work covers a few main areas.

- ◆ **Land use and zoning.** The board holds public hearings and makes formal recommendations on plans to rezone land, construct buildings, or place public facilities here, including projects under the city's land use review process.
- ◆ **The city budget.** Each year the board sets the district's capital and expense priorities, from school seats and sewers to parks and street repair, and sends them to the city.
- ◆ **City services.** The board tracks how well agencies serve the district and presses for better results on the problems residents raise.
- ◆ **Local permits.** Liquor licenses, sidewalk cafe permits, and street event applications come to the board for review before the responsible agency decides.

◆ How the office can help you

The district office is where to turn when a city service breaks down. For a pothole that never gets filled, a building problem, a missed pickup, a dangerous crossing, or a noise complaint that will not let up, the staff can point you to the right agency, file or track a request, and follow up when the response is slow. For many problems the first step is to call 311; when a report stalls, the office can press the agency and help move it along.

It helps to know what the office can and cannot do. The board and its staff work as advocates and coordinators. They do not run the agencies or overrule their decisions, and most results come through follow-up and conversation with the agencies and local officials. Even so, a call to the office often puts a problem in front of someone who can act on it.

◆ Get involved

- 1 **Come to a meeting.**
The full board meets on the first Thursday of the month, except July and August, at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at Sunnyside Community Services, 43-31 39th Street in Sunnyside, and stream live on Zoom. Each one opens with a public comment session for residents to speak. The website lists the date, agenda, and link. The board's committees meet monthly too and are also open to the public.
- 2 **Serve as a public member.**
Public members join a committee without holding a full seat on the board. It is a way to work on an issue you care about, such as land use, transportation, or parks, and to see how the board operates. The chair appoints public members, and the district office can tell you how to apply.
- 3 **Apply for a board seat.**
The Queens Borough President appoints board members. Applications usually open in early January and close in mid-February, with new terms starting April 1. You need to be a city resident, at least 16 years of age, and live, work, or have a real stake in the district. Apply at queensbp.nyc.gov, or email info@queensbp.nyc.gov with questions.

◆ Committees

Land Use and Housing · Transportation · City Services and Public Safety · Environment, Parks and Recreation · Health, Human Services, Education, Unhoused and Shelter · Arts and Cultural Affairs · Small Business and Local Economy · Engagement and Inclusion

◆ Stay connected

Sign up for the board's newsletter at nyc.gov/queenscb2 for meeting notices and neighborhood news.

● Reach the district office

ADDRESS 43-22 50th Street, Room 2B,
Woodside, NY 11377

PHONE (718) 533-8773

EMAIL qn02@cb.nyc.gov

WEBSITE nyc.gov/queenscb2

MEETINGS First Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., in person at Sunnyside Community Services (43-31 39th St) and on Zoom.

COMMITTEES Committees typically meet monthly at the district office and on Zoom; the CB2 website calendar lists dates and details.