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## DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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### Scott Stringer for Mayor

In the crowded field of mayoral hopefuls, one candidate stands out as the most experienced, most qualified and most competent: Scott Stringer. Why Stringer?

For one thing, Stringer is raising his family here Downtown. His kids go to our local public schools. He knows our needs and concerns. That is a good quality for a mayor to have.

But besides that, Stringer lives and breathes politics. At sixteen Scott served as the city's youngest community board member. At 23, he worked as legislative aide to then-Assemblymember Jerry Nadler, before winning election to that seat in 1992 after Nadler was elected to Congress.

In 2005 Stringer was elected Manhattan borough president, where, among other accomplishments, he cleaned up the community boards, which at the time had become patronage mills.

After serving two productive terms as borough president, Stringer was twice elected city comptroller. So successfully did he fulfill those duties and so competent were his management skills that Stringer had no opponent for his second term.

Without doubt, Stringer is the person to lead our city. We cannot gamble on a novice, a panderer, or an opportunist. We've seen enough of that the past four years.

We interviewed the candidates at public forums and our members—your neighbors—readily endorsed **Scott Stringer for mayor**.

### Jumaane Williams for Public Advocate

The public advocate acts as a watchdog over city agencies, advocating for transparency, accountability and the rights of all New Yorkers.

Three candidates are running for public advocate against incumbent Jumaane Williams, the most serious one being Queens Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar.

Rajkumar is seen as a moderate who emphasizes public safety. She works hard for her constituents. However, we believe she would better benefit them by continuing her service in Albany.

Elected in 2019, Jumaane Williams has been an effective public advocate. He passed more legislation in office than all previous public advocates combined, laws protecting workers, shielding homeowners from

undue tax burdens, and fighting housing discrimination. Wishing to see him continue this work, **we endorse Jumaane Williams for public advocate**.

### Justin Brannan for Comptroller

The comptroller is the city's financial officer, the person we entrust to invest city pension funds prudently yet profitably. The comptroller also audits city agencies and oversees the city's budgets and expenditures. We surely need a comptroller with deep financial experience.

One candidate, current borough president Mark Levine, has served well in that executive role and we would have supported him were it not for the caliber of his opponent, City Councilmember Justin Brannan.

Brannan's early years saw him traveling the world as a tattooed punk-rock musician. Eventually he traded his guitar for a job at Bear Stearns, where he worked his way up from clerk to financial advisor.

Elected in 2017, Brannan is now the Council's Finance Committee Chair. This position has given him direct, hands-on experience managing the city's \$100+ billion budget.

If you value a candidate with deep budget experience, a strong anti-corruption platform, and broad support from both labor and progressive groups, go with **Justin Brannan for comptroller**.

### Brad Hoylman-Sigal for Borough President

It's not often voters get the chance to elect a proven achiever. Well, the race for Manhattan borough president this year provides us that rare opportunity.

Three candidates are running: Calvin Sun, a physician with no government experience; Councilmember Keith Powers; State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal.

Powers has proven himself an active and accomplished elected official. But his good record pales in comparison to Hoylman-Sigal's.

A Harvard Law graduate and Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, he served as chair of Community Board 2, as well as Democratic District Leader for Greenwich Village and board member of the Empire State Pride Agenda.

Elected to the State Senate in 2012, Hoylman-Sigal has excelled. Quickly appointed chair of the Judiciary Committee, he was instrumental in passing some of the toughest gun laws in the nation, including a state ban on "ghost guns."

Hoylman-Sigal sponsored the Child Victims Act, the

Adult Survivors Act, and the Tenant Safe Harbor Act. He has introduced legislation to crack down on dangerous delivery e-bikes by requiring mopeds to be licensed and registered.

It is this blend of leadership, gumption, skill and determination that convinced us to strongly endorse **Brad Hoylman-Sigal for Manhattan Borough President**.

### Christopher Marte for 1<sup>st</sup> City Council District

The district covers all of Downtown south of Houston Street and has been represented by Christopher Marte since 2022. Marte faces three challengers.

One is Jess Coleman, endorsed by Open New York.

### \$ FOLLOW THE MONEY \$

Posing as housing activists, Open New York is really a front group for unbridled, high-rise, real-estate development.

Most of Open New York's funds comes from a **\$3 million** donation from Dustin Moskovitz, the billionaire co-founder of FaceBook who lives in California and is estimated by Forbes to be worth **\$17.4 billion**. It is unknown why a wealthy Californian is spending a fortune to influence the New York real estate market.

Open New York has created a Super PAC, Abundant NY, funded to the tune of **\$175,000** by a single contribution from somebody in Brooklyn. It wants to elect candidates who support its goals. Candidates like Coleman.

Another PAC attacking Marte, People for Public Space, which actually favors privatization of public space, is funded by multimillionaire hedgefunder Mark Gorton, who has funneled **\$320,000** into the group.

Gorton is an anti-vaxxer conspiracy theorist who contributed millions of dollars to RFK Jr.'s failed presidential campaign and served as its campaign manager.

**Gorton's PAC has spent over \$100,000 to elect his candidate Coleman.**

The **Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)**, the lobbying arm for the **city's biggest developers**, also formed a PAC to attack Marte. Megadevelopers Extell, Vornado, Tishman, Durst, Rudin and Rockrose have **funneled \$868,000** into the PAC to defeat candidates who fight for renters, candidates like Marte.

The New York Apartment Association, which represents rent-stabilized **landlords** and lobbies the Rent Guidelines Board to increase rents in regulated apartments, **dropped \$2.5 million** into its super PAC, Housing for

All. The PAC has funded a vicious negative campaign against Marte.

With all this money coming from real estate interests and wealthy donors outside of Manhattan, is Coleman the kind of politician who will truly represent us?

Another candidate is Elizabeth Lewinsohn, whose governance experience is limited.

More troubling is that **Lewinsohn has opted out of Campaign Matching Funds**, a City program that matches small contributions 8-1. The program was designed to amplify the impact of small-dollar contributions and reduce the influence of wealthy private donors. Its spending limit is **\$228,000**.

Having dropped out of this public program, Lewinsohn will likely spend close to **\$700,000** on the election, including at least **\$500,000** of her own money.

A search of the City Campaign Finance Board website *Follow the Money* reveals that the majority of Lewinsohn's campaign contributions comes from donors living outside our district and the majority of those donations are over \$1,000 each. Clearly, Lewinsohn is trying to buy the election.

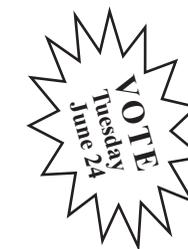
The third challenger is Eric Yu, who also has limited experience. Yu is a former member of the Marine Corps Reserve, works as an expense analyst for the MTA and serves on the community board.

The best choice is easily our incumbent council member, Christopher Marte, who has repeatedly proven his commitment to his constituents – not real-estate speculators or self-funding, big-money donors.

Marte was the only Manhattan council member to stand up to Mayor Adams and vote against the mayor's recent City of Yes real-estate boondoggle, which will create greater housing density and overdevelopment without any guarantee that a single unit will be affordable. Great news for real estate speculators.

On the other hand, Marte delivers great news for his constituents: securing historic levels of funding for public housing, creating two new parks, renovating our local public schools and planting over 500 new street trees.

Not to mention expanding street cleaning, providing rat mitigation services, helping shut down illegal smoke shops, and passing legislation to expand housing



**DID DOWNTOWN INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS**

<b>VITTORIA FARIELLO</b> DENNIS GAULT DISTRICT LEADERS 61 <sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT	<b>RICHARD CORMAN</b> PRESIDENT	<b>GRACE LEE</b> NYS ASSEMBLYMEMBER
<b>PAUL NEWELL</b> MARIAMA JAMES RON THOMAS DISTRICT LEADERS 65 <sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT	<b>SEAN SWEENEY</b> RON THOMAS VICE PRESIDENTS	<b>CHRISTOPHER MARTE</b> NYC COUNCILMEMBER
<b>JEANNINE KIELY</b> E. E. KEENAN DISTRICT LEADERS 66 <sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT	<b>E.E. KEENAN</b> SECRETARY	<b>VICTORIA LEE</b> BENJAMIN YEE JILL GOODKIND AKM MIKE BHUIYAN NYS DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
	<b>SUSAN BURKE</b> TREASURER	

**Mayor  
 Scott Stringer**

**Public Advocate  
 Jumaane Williams**

**Comptroller  
 Justin Brannan**

**Borough President  
 Brad Hoylman-Sigal**

**1<sup>st</sup> City Council District  
 Christopher Marte**

**2<sup>nd</sup> City Council District  
 Harvey Epstein**

**District Attorney  
 Alvin Bragg**

**District Leader  
 (Lower East Side only)  
 Ron Thomas**

**Delegates to the Judicial Convention  
 (TriBeCa, SoHo, NoHo, Greenwich Village only)**

**Vote all 15 Delegates in the Group:  
 from Deborah Glick - Melissa Carty  
 Vote all 15 Alternates in the Group:  
 from Jeannine Kiely - Palak Kaushal**

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successfully prosecuted Donald Trump. **We endorse Alvin Bragg for District Attorney.**

**Ron Thomas for District Leader**

Democratic Party District Leaders represent your interests in the NYS Democratic Party. You want someone who not only is active politically but also knows our community's needs.

On the eastern part of the Lower East Side, roughly from the Brooklyn Bridge to East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, that person is your serving district leader, Ron Thomas.

Ron is a long-time neighborhood resident, political activist and works for a local social service agency. Ron is running for re-election against a novice candidate. We endorse the experienced **Ron Thomas for District Leader on the Lower East Side.**

**Delegates to the Judicial Convention**

State Supreme Court judges are chosen at a judicial convention by delegates elected by voters like you. You want delegates to select competent and compassionate judges who share our values.

There is a contested election for judicial delegates in Greenwich Village, SoHo, NoHo and TriBeCa.

**Vote all 15 Delegates in the Group: from Deborah Glick through Melissa Carty.**

**Vote all 15 Alternates in the Group: from Jeannine Kiely through Palak Kaushal.**

**What is DID?**

The Downtown Independent Democrats reform club formed during the McGovern presidential campaign in 1972 and won district leadership for the first time in 1976, defeating the entrenched Tammany machine that controlled the politics here at the time.

Today we serve Battery Park City, Financial District, the Seaport, Chinatown, TriBeCa, Independence Plaza, Little Italy, SoHo, NoHo, West SoHo, the South Village and parts of Greenwich Village, the East Village and the Lower East Side, as well as Governors, Ellis and Liberty Islands.

To join or for more information, visit: [didnyc.org](http://didnyc.org).

You can bring this fact sheet into the voting booth and we encourage it to avoid any confusion. Don't forget to flip your ballot over to vote for all candidates.

If you have any questions or problems, call us at 646-309-9435 or contact the Board of Elections at 212-Vote-NYC or [vote.nyc](http://vote.nyc)  
 Scan this QR code to find your polling place



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subsidies for seniors and people with disabilities.

Recent legislative efforts include a bill to prohibit landlords from banning religious items, like mezuzahs, on tenants' front doors, as one landlord in Marte's district has tried.

Other Marte initiatives include spearheading the fight to end the 24-hour workday for home-care attendants and protecting municipal retirees' healthcare from privatization.

Marte's endorsements include Planned Parenthood, NY League of Conservation Voters, NY Central Labor Council, Voters for Animal Rights and Tenants PAC, among many others.

The choice is clear. **Christopher Marte for City Council.**

**Harvey Epstein for 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council District**

Council District 2 runs from the East Village up to Murray Hill, with five candidates vying for its council seat. The one who stands out to best represent the district is Harvey Epstein.

Upon graduation from CUNY Law School, Epstein worked for years with the Legal Aid Society and the Urban Justice League, assisting the less fortunate in our society.

A seasoned tenant organizer, Epstein also served as a tenant member of the Rent Guidelines Board for five years and secured the first-ever rent freeze for one-year leases in the board's 47-year history.

Elected to the State Assembly in 2018, Epstein has passed over fifty bills prioritizing tenant protection and affordable housing, as well as greater public school funding, early childhood programs, and public transit investment. He has shut down predatory landlords. In other words, Epstein prioritizes people over profits.

In comparison, the other candidates simply either do not have the experience or temperament to represent the people of this district. We deserve better. That is why **Downtown Independent Democrats endorses Harvey Epstein in the 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council District.**

**Alvin Bragg for District Attorney**

The race pits incumbent Alvin Bragg against Patrick Timmons, a former Bronx prosecutor. Bragg's innovative programs have reduced shootings by 34% and overall crime by 16%, increased focus on hate crimes, and improved crime survivor support, while also addressing mental health and recidivism.

Despite a rocky start, he has delivered a comprehensive strategy to make Manhattan safer. And let us not forget he