

**Candidate:** Carl Wilson

**Office:** NYC Council District 3

**Question:** Please provide a brief statement about why you are running for this office. What would be your #1 policy priority if elected? And please provide one accomplishment that you believe illustrates why you're the best candidate for the job.

**Candidate Response:**

I am running for New York City Council because the West Side of Manhattan deserves fresh, capable leadership. District 3 is not just where I live, it is where I found my home, my community, and my purpose.

I am originally from Prince George's County, Maryland and am the son of two lifelong civil servants. My father was a firefighter and then worked for the U.S. Senate for 45 years and my mother plays a leading role in work to develop affordable housing for the county.

I moved to New York City in 2009 as a struggling actor looking for work and a place where I could truly belong. In Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea, and the West Village, in the historic heart of New York City's LGBTQ+ civil rights movement and queer communities, I found exactly that. This district gave me the freedom to live my truest self and the sense of responsibility to give back to the community that welcomed me.

After the 2016 presidential election, I felt a deep sense of heartbreak and urgency about the direction of our country. That moment pushed me to pivot fully into public service. I knew that if I wanted to protect the values that this community stands for, I had to stop watching from the sidelines and start organizing locally.

I co-founded the Hell's Kitchen Democrats to build a true grassroots, progressive home on the West Side and to challenge the entrenched political power of the McManus machine that was no longer serving our neighborhoods. That work helped create a lasting, community driven organization that continues to uplift local voices and advance progressive policy in District 3.

As Chief of Staff to Council Member Erik Bottcher, I have helped deliver real results for New Yorkers. I've worked on our budgeting process, I have worked with corresponding staff and electeds on how to best serve our communities, and I helped pass landmark environmental protections, gun violence prevention legislation, and major housing initiatives that are making our city fairer, safer, and more affordable. I have also worked every day alongside tenants, nonprofit providers, advocates, and community leaders to solve real problems on the ground.

My vision is a District 3 where people can afford to stay in the neighborhoods they love, where our LGBTQ+ communities and civil rights are actively protected, where quality of life and public safety are taken seriously, and where our arts and creative communities are able to thrive.

I am running to continue delivering for this community as its next Council Member, and I would be honored to do so with the support of Downtown Independent Democrats.