



We are facing a five-alarm fire that too many Democrats are treating as a tiny, distant flame. Everything is at stake: the right to choose, the right to vote, the right for all people to reclaim the American Dream.

I led the first impeachment investigation of Donald Trump, and I am running for Congress to lead the fights for our democracy, our fundamental rights, our safety and our planet. If we want to defend the right to choose, the right to organize, the right to health care, the right to affordable living, we must first defend our democracy and the right to vote. Without that, we cannot begin to tackle our progressive agenda.

I am new to politics. But I've always been on the front lines fighting for the American people. I have spent my entire legal career in public service – a decade as a federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York and then as Director of Investigations for the House Intelligence Committee in Congress. In addition, during law school, I worked closely with Michelle Alexander on her seminal book, *The New Jim Crow*, and I have had a lifelong commitment to civil rights and racial justice instilled in me at a young age. At my core, I believe in standing up for vulnerable communities to give everyone the opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

Saving Democracy

Our democracy is under attack by Trump and the Republican Party he controls. January 6 was the beginning, not the end, of the existential fight for our democracy as we've known it for 250 years. And as the only candidate who has stood up to Donald Trump, I am uniquely qualified to lead that fight to protect and preserve our democracy.

In order to impeach Trump, we had to throw away the old playbook. We used aggressive and creative tactics to make our case, and that's the kind of new and fresh approach I will bring to Washington. I earned the respect of the Democrats in Congress, and I would enter Congress with credibility and access that my opponents do not have.

I have long focused on voting rights, dating back to law school when I wrote a law review article on how felon disenfranchisement laws were the modern-day literacy test. In Congress, I would champion the Democracy Restoration Act, which, among other things, restores the right to vote for previously incarcerated citizens. I also support legislation to make Election Day a federal holiday. While I would have signed on as a co-sponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, I think the For the People Act is even more important because it makes access to the ballot so much easier and promotes fairness in elections. Finally, I would call for an immediate congressional investigation into allegations of voter fraud to expose Republicans for using misleading and false claims about concerns about voter fraud, which simply does not exist.

Protecting/Creating Affordable Housing

New York's housing affordability crisis is driven by a housing availability problem. We need more housing and better housing. We need to incentivize public-private partnerships and make sure the private sector is doing its part instead of making profit off government subsidies. We should allow the private developers to do what they do better than the government (i.e. building) but require them to give back much more to the community, in the way of deeper and more housing affordability, public space, and services such as daycares and schools. As a priority, new developments must protect local residents from displacement.

5 World Trade Center is a real opportunity and should be 100% affordable with priority for 9/11 first responders, survivors and their children. Silverstein Properties and Brookfield Properties have already received massive subsidies and made a tremendous profit. They should be required to subsidize affordable housing in 5 World Trade as part of the public-private partnership. I will join community advocates in fighting for this.

We also need rigorous environmental controls to ensure that affordable housing is not relegated to areas with environmental concerns, such as in the Gowanus Green proposal.

But using public incentives for private development is not the entire solution. We must also fully fund public housing and NYCHA to ensure that conditions in current public housing remain of sufficient quality. We also need to provide protections for those in affordable housing provided by 421a tax abatements are not evicted when the 421a duration rolls off, and we must pass additional eviction protections.

Combating Gun Violence

Gun violence in the country, our city, and our community has increased, and now we are faced with a horrific Supreme Court decision overturning a common sense gun law passed by the New York state legislature. Limiting guns saves lives so we need to address the abundance of guns through banning assault weapons, imposing waiting periods, and limiting access to guns for young people and individuals at significant risk of harming themselves or engaging in violence.

I have called for an immediate investigation into gun manufacturers and dealers to determine whether and to what extent their marketing, advertising, and money influences the scourge of mass shootings around our country. This investigation would support the immediate repeal of the 2005 Protection of Commerce in Lawful Arms Act, which provides immunity for gun manufacturers and dealers. We know that overwhelming majorities of voters – including Republicans and gun owners – believe in universal background checks and other gun legislation opposed by the gun lobby, yet the Republican Party shows more loyalty to the gun lobby than its own constituents. If Republicans prevent common sense gun legislation from becoming law over the wishes of their constituents, then Congress must better understand the internal deliberations of the NRA and gun manufacturers, which hold such control over Republicans.

Fighting for Our Planet

We need bold action to protect our planet, which is why I support the principles of the Green New Deal. We need to transition to clean energy as quickly as possible, which can create millions of good jobs in the process. In Congress, I will work to incentivize private companies to invest in renewable energy and encourage community and public power production. Federal legislation cannot solve the problem itself; we must have a public-private partnership to address climate change at the necessary pace to save our earth.

We also have significant environmental challenges in our neighborhood. For example, the Chinatown jail project must be stopped until the environmental concerns are addressed. We must prepare Lower Manhattan for the next superstorm and also prevent the loss of our valuable parks and community gardens.

Defending Reproductive Rights

The Supreme Court overturned Roe—but we will not give up. The right to abortion is fundamental to a thriving democracy. Democrats have to tackle their extremism head on, not with the same old playbook that hasn't gotten us anywhere. We need to take their radical agenda head on. That's exactly what I'll do in Congress to ensure the right to safe and accessible abortion.

Addressing Hate Crimes

Hate crimes tear at the very fabric of society, inflicting long-term harm on victims and radiating beyond to create a terroristic effect on the victim's entire community. We have seen dramatic increases in crimes against AAPI, LGBTQ, Latinx, and Jewish communities. This means working with the District Attorneys to make sure that those who commit hate crimes are held accountable, working with Congressmember Grace Meng on her efforts to secure money to community groups for engagement, empowerment, increased language access, and education, and adding sentencing escalators for federal crimes committed with a discriminatory motive.