



Top Policy Priorities

1. Building an economy that works for working people

I am running for Congress to take back our economy from the corporations, Republicans and corporate Democrats who have spent decades profiting from a rigged system while regular New Yorkers foot the bill.

That sounds like an impossibly huge task until you break it down into actionable pieces. Taking back our economy means pushing for and passing Joe Biden's Build Back Better agenda to direct more social infrastructure spending to our district. It means passing commonsense tax reforms that make the ultra-rich pay their fair share, and directing those funds into the social infrastructure spending we need to strengthen our frayed social safety net and provide the local-level jumpstart our economy needs.

It also means learning the lessons of the pandemic and dumping our broken for-profit healthcare system in favor of a single-payer system that prioritizes positive health outcomes over record profits – because so many of our working people are tied to exploitative jobs due to the healthcare that comes with them, and that remains one of our country's largest anchors on sustained economic growth among the bottom two-thirds of Americans.

Right before Memorial Day, Republicans in Congress voted against reining in price gouging by oil companies and against a bill to help solve the baby formula shortage, a crisis created by corporate greed and consolidation. Rep. Nicole Mallotakis, who represents folks just a short ferry ride away, has taken \$177,000 and counting from fossil fuel companies. Gas prices in New York City just surged to \$5 a gallon— the highest on record — with some individual stations charging more than \$6 a gallon.

Meanwhile, profits have surged to \$41 billion in the first quarter for Big Oil companies, and their CEOs, who've been bragging on earnings calls about their "pricing strategies" and record-breaking profits. And in the first five months of 2022, while consumers pay sky-high prices, Big Oil generously rewarded Wall Street investors with eight companies' authorizing plans to buy back and retire \$46 billion in stock.

I've been proud to stand with progressives and against these predatory companies. Last several years in Albany, I introduced and reintroduced and reintroduced a bill that proposes a tax on stock buybacks that would generate over \$3.2 billion in new funding that could be used to fund



critical infrastructure support like climate change mitigation, education, public housing, or social services. I look forward to proposing similar legislation in Congress, alongside my progressive colleagues.

2. Increasing federal investment in public housing

Housing insecurity is a crisis that our federal government has too long pushed off onto state governments that lack both the resources and the political will to address the core problems faced by tenants in crumbling public buildings and unsafe units. As a lawmaker in Albany, I have proven that I can build grassroots coalitions that shake up the apathy that pervades Washington and deliver meaningful policy reforms that promote better housing solutions for all.

I believe actions speak louder than words. I made our public housing a priority and firmly believed that the state absolutely has a financial responsibility for our public housing. I was told time and time again that our public housing was the federal government's responsibility even after decades of disinvestment. That's why I fought for and won our first-ever state dollars to support NYCHA capital improvements – \$1 billion that simply did not exist for public housing before, even though we had the money.

I have championed housing programs like a new Mitchell lama and during the pandemic worked to help folks stay in their homes. Our federal government must do more to ensure that states are receiving support for public and affordable housing commensurate with their need, and I will never hesitate from fighting to direct federal housing dollars to New York's public housing system.

Many of the resources we need exist – Congress just lacks the political will to get the job done for the American people. This is why we need to do more than just elect Democrats, we must make sure we are electing the *right* Democrats, who are unafraid to make their district's tenants a priority. I will work to preserve and expand public housing funding federally, as well as urging HUD to enforce better standards of transparency and accountability over how federal money is spent to ensure those dollars are going to meaningful reforms that improve the lives of our residents instead of being siphoned off by corruption and mismanagement.

3. Safeguarding our environment for future generations

Climate change is not a situation we can afford to wait another two, or four, or eight years to address. It is happening to us now, and as New Yorkers in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn we



know fully well that we are frontline communities in this climate crisis. We've seen the flooding, seen the small businesses displaced by worsening storms, seen the huge and ever-growing costs to repair the damage of natural disasters worsened by climate change. In Albany, I was so closely associated with the fight for climate resiliency and green investment that progressives called the Assembly's proposal the Green Niou Deal. I will be a champion for these critical investments in Congress.

When I worked for the U.S. EPA, I often talked to my teams about how we couldn't just talk about "the environment", but also environmental *justice*. The 10th Congressional District experiences staggering environmental segregation, with public housing built right next to our highways in a way that worsens airborne pollution and causes our children to be more susceptible to asthma and other health issues.

As a lawmaker, I have immersed myself in our environmental issues because I know they impact every *other* issue we must face as a state and a nation. I know climate injustice when I see it, and I will not hesitate to put a national spotlight on climate injustice as Congresswoman by demanding real accountability and tougher fines from those who exploit our communities and damage our environment.

Transitioning to a 100 percent clean electricity economy is essential, and it touches on so many parts of our lives. Not only does it represent a major blow against climate change by phasing out the use of polluting fossil fuels, it's a victory for environmentalism more broadly and also for American energy security. We've been made acutely aware of how vulnerable our energy supplies are, and I have been a long-time champion of increased state investment in green energy.

Not only would I fight to direct federal clean energy investment dollars towards New York, I believe we can embrace a clean energy future while also making Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn the nation's green tech and clean tech innovation hub. Not only does that plan bring good union jobs, it helps protect our own frontline climate communities in the Financial District, Red Hook, and across so much of the district.