

**New Yorkers will have five ballot proposals to vote on this November.
Vote Early from October 26th–November 3rd or on Election Day November 5th!**

Common Cause/NY supports all five 2019 ballot measures.

**Question 1:
Changes to
NYC’s Elections
SUPPORT**

What is it?

- * Establish Ranked Choice Voting in primary and special elections for local elected officials by 2021. Instead of voting for just 1 candidate, voters would be able to rank their top 5 candidates. If voters still want to vote for just one candidate, they can.
- * Extends the time period for when a special election can be called and extends the redistricting timeline for City Council districts.

Why does CCNY support Question 1? For too long our local elections have been dominated by a “first past the post,” winner-take-all system, where candidates win their elections without receiving support from a majority of voters. RCV forces politicians to compete everywhere and pay attention to every community, not just those of wealthy donors and special interests. RCV forces candidates to talk about the issues, whereas our current electoral system fosters negative campaigning. Simply put, RCV is about increasing the power and voice of everyday people in New York elections. The change in timing of calling a special election would ease election administration. While the timeline for redistricting needs to be adjusted to accommodate recent changes to state election law.

**Question 2:
Changes to
the Civilian
Complaint
Review Board
(CCRB)
SUPPORT**

What is it? The CCRB is an independent oversight agency that investigates police misconduct. This proposal would:

- * Increase the number of CCRB members.
- * Protect the CCRB budget from cuts.
- * Require the Police Commissioner to notify and explain why a CCRB disciplinary recommendation isn’t followed.
- * Give the CCRB the authority to investigate potential false statements made by police officers during a CCRB investigation.
- * Give CCRB the power to subpoena records and witnesses for their cases.

Why does CCNY support Question 2? The CCRB provides an important independent oversight role for police misconduct. However, more can be done to strengthen its ability to conduct investigations and ensure it has sufficient resources to conduct agency business. These changes are nominal, but serve to signal the city’s continued commitment to substantive accountability measures.

**Question 3:
Changes to
Ethics and
Government
SUPPORT**

What is it?

- * Extends the ban on former city or elected officials from communicating with the agency or branch of government that previously employed them.
- * Restricts the political activity of Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) members and changes their appointment process.
- * Change the appointment process of the city’s chief lawyer (Corporation Counsel).

continue reading on next page

Question 3 cont:
SUPPORT

Why does CCNY support Question 3? Question 3 would amend the Charter to strengthen existing ethics guidelines in several ways. Most importantly, Question 3 sets strict limits on the political activity of COIB members by prohibiting their participation in any local campaign, and reducing the amount they can contribute to candidates. New Yorkers expect those acting in a watchdog capacity to exhibit integrity, high ethical standards, and most importantly, independence.

Question 3 also aims to close the so-called “revolving door” by extending the ban on former elected City officials or senior appointed officials from communicating with the agency or office that previously employed them. Extending the ban is an essential step in curtailing the all too common practice of former public officials leveraging their previous positions in government.

By changing the appointment process of the city’s chief lawyer, Question 3 ensures that the Corporation Counsel does not fall under improper pressure from the Mayor that would impede their ability to fairly represent the interests of the city as a whole.

Question 4:
Changes to City Budget
SUPPORT

What is it?

- * Allows the city to create and use a savings account, and protects the budget for Public Advocate and Borough Presidents from cuts.
- * Changes the timing of revenue estimates and budget changes.

Why does CCNY support Question 4? Question 4 is meant to protect budgets of certain elected officials from being manipulated or slashed for reasons outside of legitimate budgeting policy. It is crucial that the budgets of elected officials, especially those acting in a watchdog or oversight capacity, are not susceptible to potential political retaliation. Question 4 guarantees budget stability and more importantly, ensures that certain elected officials and agencies have the tools necessary to sufficiently address the City’s most pressing needs.

Question 5:
Changes to the City Land Use Process
SUPPORT

What is it? The City’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) sets a standard time frame for public review of rezonings and real estate projects. This proposal would:

- * Give community boards, elected officials, and the public more time to learn about the projects before ULURP starts.
- * Give all-volunteer community boards more time for review in the summer.

Why does CCNY support Question 5? In New York City, all proposals relating to potential rezonings and real estate projects are required to go through a land review process called ULURP. CCNY supports a top-to-bottom reworking of the ULURP process, one that meaningfully incorporates public input. The current process however, often leaves insufficient time for substantive community engagement on decisions that can have sweeping ramifications for neighborhoods across New York City.

Question 5 gives communities and elected officials more time to evaluate potential changes to their neighborhoods before the review process begins. After all, if developers have plans to dramatically alter the makeup and character of neighborhoods across the City, communities and city representatives deserve to have adequate time to assess and scrutinize their proposals.