

November 2022 ballot question “translations” per A10708 requirements

Voters outside of New York City will vote on 1 ballot measure this year which is the Environmental Bond Act. In New York City, voters will have three additional ballot measures to approve.

What’s in this document?

Each table column has a version of a ballot question. The first column contains the measure as it will appear on the November 8, 2022 ballot. The second column contains a plain language version of the same measure which follows the requirements of Assembly Bill 10708 prepared by Common Cause/NY and the Center for Civic Design. There are “stats” in the bottom row of each table. The stats row shows whether each requirement of the bill is met or violated. Violations are indicated with an asterisk.

We used [Hemingway](#) to calculate Automated Readability Index (ARI). We show an ARI grade level for the entire text including the title, and another ARI grade level for only the text.

Passives are highlighted **in green** and semicolons are highlighted **in red**. There were no double negatives in any version.

What does the bill require?

- Must score 8th grade/good or higher on ARI
- One passive sentence or fewer
- Avoids semi colons, using multiple sentences as necessary
- No double negatives
- Descriptive title with 15 words or less that describes the topic, goal, or outcome
- Ballot text of 30 words or less in “clear, concise, plain language” (ARI requirement repeated here)
- Plain Language statement of what yes or no means that describes the practical results and not the legal mechanism (30 words or less).
- Fiscal statement when required (25 words or less)

STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTION: Proposal Number One, an Amendment: CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT OF 2022

Original text on the 2022 ballot	Plain Language Version
<p>CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS Environmental Bond Act of 2022</p> <p>To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the "Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022" authorizes the sale of state bonds up to four billion two hundred million dollars to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency, and clean energy projects. Shall the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 be approved?</p>	<p>CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS Environmental Bond Act of 2022</p> <p>Should New York sell up to \$4.2 billion in bonds? The income would fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental protection, • Natural restoration, • Resiliency, and • Clean energy projects <p>A yes vote would authorize the sale of state bonds to combat the impact of climate change.</p> <p>A no vote means there would not be a sale of state bonds.</p>
<p>Grade (all): 15* Grade (text): Post-graduate* Title: 12 words Text: 61 words* Yes/No: N/A Fiscal: N/A Passives: 1 Semi colons: 0 Double negatives: 0</p>	<p>Grade (all): 4 Grade (text): 6 Title: 12 words Text: 24 words Yes/No: 30 Fiscal: N/A Passives: 0 Semi colons: 0 Double negatives: 0</p>

NEW YORK CITY ONLY: Proposal Number Two, a Question: Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government

Original text on the 2022 ballot	Plain Language Version
<p>Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government</p> <p>This proposal would amend the New York City Charter to:</p> <p>Add a preamble, which would be an introductory statement of values and vision aspiring toward “a just and equitable city for all” New Yorkers; and</p> <p>Include in the preamble a statement that the City must strive to remedy “past and continuing harms and to reconstruct, revise, and reimagine our foundations, structures, institutions, and laws to promote justice and equity for all New Yorkers.”</p> <p>The preamble is intended to guide City government in fulfilling its duties.</p> <p>Shall this proposal be adopted?</p>	<p>Add a Statement of Values to the New York City Charter to Guide City Government</p> <p>Should NYC add an introduction to the City Charter?</p> <p>Such an introduction would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define a vision for “a just and equitable city” • Direct government to correct “past and continuing harms” <p>A yes vote adds an introduction to the New York City Charter to guide city government in fulfilling its duties.</p> <p>A no vote means the Charter will not change.</p>
<p>Grade (all): 10* Grade (text): 11* Title: 8 words Text: 90 words* Yes/No: N/A Fiscal: N/A Passives: 2* Semi colons: 1* Double negatives: 0</p>	<p>Grade (all): 5 Grade (text): 6 Title: 15 (of 15) words Text: 30 (of 30) words Yes/No: 26 (of 30) words Fiscal: N/A Passives: 0 Semi colons: 0 Double negatives: 0</p>

NEW YORK CITY ONLY: Proposal Number Three, a Question: Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission

Original text on the 2022 ballot	Plain Language Version
<p>Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission</p> <p>This proposal would amend the City Charter to:</p> <p>Require citywide and agency-specific Racial Equity Plans every two years. The plans would include intended strategies and goals to improve racial equity and to reduce or eliminate racial disparities;</p> <p>Establish an Office of Racial Equity and appoint a Chief Equity Officer to advance racial equity and coordinate the City's racial equity planning process. The Office would support City agencies in improving access to City services and programs for those people and communities who have been negatively affected by previous policies or actions, and collect and report data related to equity; and</p> <p>Establish a Commission on Racial Equity, appointed by City elected officials. In making appointments to this Commission, elected officials would be required to consider appointees who are representative of or have experience advocating for a diverse range of communities. The Commission would identify and propose priorities to inform the racial equity planning process and review agency and citywide Racial Equity Plans.</p>	<p>Create a Racial Equity Commission, Office, and Plans</p> <p>Should New York City develop a racial equity planning process run by a Commission?</p> <p>The goal of this proposal is to reduce or end racial disparities in New York City.</p> <p>A yes vote changes the City Charter and creates a Racial Equity Commission, Office, and Plans with regular reports on progress.</p> <p>A no vote means the Charter will not change.</p>

<p>Shall this proposal be adopted?</p>	
<p>Grade (all): 13* Grade (text): 14* Title: 8 words Text: 165 words* Yes/No: N/A Fiscal: N/A Passives: 3* Semi colons: 2* Double negatives: 0</p>	<p>Grade (all): 7 Grade (text): 8 Title: 8 words Text: 30 words Yes/No: 30 words Fiscal: N/A Passives: 1 Semi colons: 0 Double negatives: 0</p>

NEW YORK CITY ONLY: Proposal Number Four, a Question: Measure the True Cost of Living

Original text on the 2022 ballot	Plain Language Version
<p>Measure the True Cost of Living</p> <p>This proposal would amend the City Charter to:</p> <p>Require the City to create a “true cost of living” measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs, including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other necessary costs, and without considering public, private, or informal assistance, in order to inform programmatic and policy decisions; and</p> <p>Require the City government to report annually on the “true cost of living” measure.</p> <p>Shall this proposal be adopted?</p>	<p>Measure the True Cost of Living In New York City</p> <p>Should New York City create a “true cost of living” measure to inform policy and program decisions?</p> <p>The measure would track the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housing ● Food ● Childcare ● Transportation ● Other necessities <p>A yes vote would amend the City Charter and require annual reports on the “true cost of living” in New York City.</p> <p>A no vote would not change the Charter.</p>
<p>Grade (all): 11* Grade (text): 13* Title: 6 words Text: 77 words* Yes/No: N/A Fiscal: N/A Passives: 3* Semi colons: 1* Double negatives: 0</p>	<p>Grade (all): 3 Grade (text): 6 Title: 10 words Text: 30 words Yes/No: 30 words Fiscal: N/A Passives: 0 Semi colons: 0 Double negatives: 0</p>