NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

RESISTANCE & PROGRESS

SPRING 2017

18 PROGRESSIVE POLICIES FOR 2018
A POLICY PLATFORM FOR THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL TERM
New York City has long been a beacon of progressive values. Since 2009, the City Council’s Progressive Caucus has fought successfully to build a more just and equal city. We improved workers’ lives through guaranteed paid sick days and a higher minimum wage. We won policing reforms that dramatically reduced stop-and-frisk and increased oversight. We expanded legal access for tenants facing eviction, anti-violence programs, and youth jobs. We spread participatory budgeting across the city. Yet, today, we face a stark new reality. The bigotry, injustice, and corruption of the Trump administration threatens the wellbeing of our people, the progress we’ve made, and the deepest values of our democracy. At this critical moment, we must commit to fierce resistance and insistent progress.

Fierce Resistance
Hatred, bias, and systemic discrimination are not new to immigrants, people of color, women, Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ or low-income New Yorkers. But the Trump regime has given these injustices the sanction of the White House. NYC’s progressive leaders have a responsibility to resist Trump’s vitriol, lies, and bigotry. The Progressive Caucus has been energized by the bold resistance that has risen since Trump’s election, and commits to standing in solidarity with and bolstering that resistance. We affirm our commitments as a sanctuary city to protect our immigrant communities in the face of aggressive deportation and federally-sanctioned fear. We must ensure that New Yorkers have access to essential protections and services, shore up our collective safety net, and foster new forms of civic engagement to protect our democracy.

Insistent Progress
But resistance alone is not enough. We must also make progress on the values that undergird our resistance: equality, compassion, justice, and democracy. If we are honest, we know that we have not created a city or a nation that lives up to those values. With the federal government and a record number of state legislatures under conservative control, progress must come from our cities. It must come from us.

We pledge our strongest efforts to resist hate and intolerance, to build upon the progress we’ve made, and to create a city of justice, equality, and compassion.
ABOUT THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

Who We Are

The Progressive Caucus was formed in 2009 with the goal of advancing policies to build a more just and equal New York City. Our members from all five boroughs for the 2014-2017 term include:

Council Member Antonio Reynoso (Co-Chair)
Council Member Donovan Richards (Co-Chair)
Council Member Ben Kallos (Vice-Chair for Policy)
Council Member Helen Rosenthal (Vice-Chair for Budget Advocacy).
Council Member Margaret Chin (District 1, Manhattan)
Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland (District 21, Queens)
Council Member Corey Johnson (District 3, Manhattan)
Council Member Brad Lander (District 39, Brooklyn)
Council Member Steve Levin (District 33, Brooklyn)
Council Member Mark Levine (District 7, Manhattan)
Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (District 8, Manhattan & Bronx)
Council Member Carlos Menchaca (District 38, Brooklyn)
Council Member I. Daneek Miller (District 27, Queens)
Council Member Bill Perkins (District 9, Manhattan)
Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10, Manhattan)
Council Member Deborah Rose (District 49, Staten Island)
Council Member Ritchie Torres (District 15, Bronx)
Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer (District 26, Queens)
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams (District 45, Brooklyn)

Our Policy Platform

This platform is the result of learning firsthand what affects constituents in our districts. It takes our collective knowledge of neighborhoods, and many aspirational policies we’ve encountered in our work in the city that we hope to take on in the coming session. We dare to think big while still remaining grounded in the everyday needs of New Yorkers.

We started from a list of hundreds of ideas, and narrowed them down to reflect the priorities that we feel will help address the particular needs of New York City residents while keeping an eye on the dire cuts to services and threats to our values taking place at the federal level. With this platform in mind, we, along with our partners, will encourage Council Members to adopt this platform, organize rallies, mobilize our constituents, advocate to the Mayor, and devote our time, energy, and resources to making many of these progressive policy ideas a reality.
GUIDING THEMES

A SANCTUARY CITY FOR ALL NEW YORKERS
We support policies that protect all New Yorkers from the threats of the Trump regime. We are a city of immigrants, where people of color, women, workers, and LGBTQ New Yorkers blazed a trail of freedom and dignity. We will not go back.

BUILDING A MORE EQUAL ECONOMY
We will combat the growing income and wealth divide, which denies too many New Yorkers a fair chance. This means not just higher wages, but more economic democracy, where workers have more choices and control over their working lives.

PROTECTING & CREATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS
Skyrocketing rents, harassment, and displacement threaten countless New Yorkers. We need new units, but we can’t just build our way out. We must do everything we can to strengthen tenant protections, preserve every affordable unit, require more and deeper affordability, and meet our shared responsibility for housing homeless New Yorkers. And we must plan together – as a city, and as communities – for a future of truly livable, inclusive neighborhoods.

REFORMING POLICING & THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
We have come a long way from the days of 700,000 stop-and-frisks a year that were dramatically over-concentrated in communities of color. But we still have a long, long way to go if we believe that black and brown lives matter and if we want a city of genuinely equal justice for all. This will require strong efforts at both advancing police reform and accountability and reforming our criminal justice system.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TO GIVE EVERY CHILD A REAL CHANCE
New data shows overwhelmingly that investments in early childhood and public education are essential to social mobility. We will help make sure all children in New York City -- from birth to college -- show up ready for school, prepared to succeed in the evolving economy.

AGGRESSIVELY COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE
Our planet faces an existential crisis, and our most vulnerable communities will suffer the gravest consequences of climate change. We must transition rapidly to 100% clean energy and a more resilient and sustainable city.

ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR ALL
Our transit system must work for all communities - including those currently facing long commutes, unaffordable fares, and crumbling physical infrastructure. Low- and moderate-income communities deserve access to affordable and well-connected transportation, including walkable, bikable, livable streets.

RENEWING OUR DEMOCRACY
In recent decades, we have badly neglected our democracy as a vehicle for coming together, across difference, to solve problems and achieve common goals. The remarkable outpouring of energy to oppose the Trump regime offers an opportunity for a radical expansion of civic engagement. We will channel that energy to renew our democracy.
# Executive Summary

**Resistance & Progress: 18 Progressive Policies for 2018**

## A Sanctuary City for All New Yorkers

1. **“Right to Counsel” for Immigrants**
   - Any immigrant facing deportation or detention in New York City should have a right to be provided with an attorney.

## Building a More Equal Economy

2. **Fair Work Week**
   - Workers must have the right to advance notice of schedules, be protected from abusive scheduling, have access to full-time hours, “form an organization” and have a right to request flexibility.

3. **Economic Democracy through Worker Cooperatives & Day Labor Centers**
   - Innovative models can give workers more power in their working lives and increase their access to safe and dignified jobs.

4. **Living Wage 3.0**
   - When the City provides businesses with subsidies, tax-breaks, or contracts, workers should earn more than minimum wage, get COLA adjustments, and have the right to organize.

5. **Eliminate the Municipal Gender Pay Gap**
   - The gender pay gap of 18 cents on the dollar for city employees must be closed through equitable career advancement and protections.

## Protecting & Creating Affordable Housing in Livable Neighborhoods

6. **Invest in Public Housing**
   - The City and our partners must fully fund New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) $17 billion capital deficit and prevent privatization.

7. **Required & Permanent Affordable Housing**
   - We must expand our tools to require affordable housing in all new multifamily developments and maximize the use of City-owned land.

8. **Reduce Homelessness**
   - We must provide a safe shelter system and a better pathway to housing for homeless New Yorkers through public housing, affordable housing, and permanent rental assistance.

## Reforming Policing & The Criminal Justice System

9. **Right to Know Act**
   - Improve community-police interactions by requiring officers to identify themselves and the reason for the interaction, and obtain fully informed consent before searches.

10. **Close Rikers**
    - Implement the proposals of the Lippman Commission to cut short-term incarceration in half, re-design detention in modern, borough-based, community jails, and close Rikers for good.
## Public Education to Give Every Kid a Real Chance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Universal Childcare from Birth to Four</td>
<td>Extend access to child-care for all from birth to four, and create a “Birth to Four” pathway that supports and services families in need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>End Youth Hunger</td>
<td>1.1 million public school students must have access to breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dinner, year-round, because children can’t learn on an empty stomach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Integrate Public Schools and Provide Culturally Responsive Education</td>
<td>Adopt and implement a comprehensive plan to reduce school segregation, and increase diversity and inclusion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>After School for All</td>
<td>1.1 million public school students must have after-school programs to provide enrichment and adult supervision so young people remain safe until parents come home from work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Free and Strong CUNY</td>
<td>CUNY is a vehicle of upward mobility and opportunity. Students must have access to higher education without barriers. CUNY must have the resources to help them succeed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Aggressively Combating Climate Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Climate Works for All</td>
<td>NYC must mandate strong energy-reduction retrofits for large buildings, which produce most of NYC’s greenhouse gas emissions, with labor standards to ensure good jobs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Accessible Public Transport for All

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MoveNY to Fund Public Transportation &amp; Reduce Congestion</td>
<td>Adopt a fairer tolling system for bridges and tunnels to reduce traffic and pollution, and increase revenue to expand public transport.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Renewing Our Democracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pre-Citizen Voting</td>
<td>Enfranchise approximately one million New Yorkers by expanding the right to vote in local elections to immigrants with Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A SANCTUARY CITY FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

We support policies that protect all New Yorkers from the threats of the Trump regime. We are a city of immigrants, of women, a city where the LGBTQ movement was born. We are a city of immigrants, where people of color, women, workers, and LGBTQ New Yorkers blazed a trail of freedom and dignity. We will not go back.
Currently, immigrant New Yorkers have no permanent right to counsel, meaning that, when someone faces deportation or detention but cannot afford an attorney, there is no guarantee they will find an attorney to represent them. That means a large number of some of the most vulnerable people in our city – many of them families seeking asylum with children – could face the threat of deportation without representation.

In the face of an administration seeking to deport immigrants who have helped make our city what it is, and who may have a right to lawfully remain in the United States, New York City must lead the way in putting forth legislation that protects immigrants from deportation and detention through a right to an attorney to represent them in deportation proceedings. This right to an attorney should include detained and non-detained immigrants facing proceedings and be permanently enshrined as a right in New York. We must fight to keep immigrant New Yorkers here with their families.
Preserve NYC’s “Sanctuary City” Policies

As a sanctuary city, we will not let President Trump transform state and local police enforcement into federal agents. We will refuse to release records from NYPD, Department of Education, and IDNYC, and protect information related to a person’s immigration status. We believe there is a direct connection between the criminalization of people of color and immigrants and their vulnerability to out-of-control immigration enforcement, and that true “sanctuary” also requires addressing this problem.

Support Reproductive Health Services & Providers

We will protect the rights of women and all New Yorkers to access reproductive health care from the attacks of the Trump Administration. Regardless of Federal action or funding, we will expand access and fully fund reproductive health service providers.
Preserve the Social Safety Net

We will fight strenuously against federal cuts. We will not allow Trump to impose austerity on NYC. If necessary, we will push for revenue increases -- as progressive as we can make them, in a city where the wealthiest pay far less than their fair share -- to preserve the safety net that protects our city’s most vulnerable communities.

Defend New Yorkers’ Human Rights

As President Trump continues to endorse policies of bias, xenophobia and hate, it is now more important than ever to fund new capacity for the NYC Commission on Human Rights. NYC should expand the Commission’s Law Enforcement Bureau, responsible for investigating, prosecuting and resolving complaints of discrimination, harassment, and bias-based profiling, to protect New Yorkers during this time of heightened intolerance.
We will combat the growing income and wealth divide, which denies too many New Yorkers a fair chance. This means not just higher wages, but a true economic democracy, where workers have more choices and control.
Currently, many workers live paycheck to paycheck without any financial stability. Workers across all sectors — in particular, low-wage workers in fast-food and retail sectors — should have the right to stable schedules and a pathway to full-time hours. Similar legislation passed in Seattle has proven to be beneficial for both employees and businesses, helping to retain workers and lower the cost of turnover. The legislation includes:

- **Advance Scheduling for Fast-Food Workers**
  Give fast-food workers a 14-day notice of their schedules and "predictability pay" for last-minute shift changes.

- **Ban "On-Call" Scheduling**
  Employees in the retail industry must not be required to set aside time or call in hours before possible work without the assurance of additional pay.

- **Restrict "Clopenings"**
  Restrict the practice of forcing fast-food employees to close in the evening and open the next morning within a matter of hours.

- **Access to Hours for Fast-Food Workers**
  Require fast-food employers to offer additional hours to existing employees before hiring new employees.

- **A Right to Request a Flexible Schedule**
  Ensure all workers have the right to request a flexible work schedule, and require employers to grant that flexibility in certain emergency situations.

- **Deductions to Non-Profits for Fast-Food workers**
  Enable fast-food workers to voluntarily deduct contributions from their paychecks to nonprofit organizations to help them advocate for their rights.
In a time of rising inequality and disillusionment, we must empower workers to exercise agency over their own labor through worker cooperatives and day laborer centers. Worker cooperatives transform employees into owner-operators, putting them directly in control of their economic future. Day laborer centers give a particularly vulnerable class of immigrants the resources and support structure they need to fight back against wage theft and workforce hazards, and create the conditions for economic advancement. We support forward-thinking initiatives that offer low-income and immigrant workers greater control over employment conditions and the fruits of their labor through the expansion of workers cooperatives and day laborers centers:

- **Worker Cooperatives:**
  The Worker Cooperatives Business Development Initiative must be fully funded to support creating new and expanding existing worker cooperatives

- **Day Laborer Centers for All Five Boroughs:**
  Day Laborers Centers must be expanded across the five boroughs to provide job placement and workforce development services to vulnerable immigrant workers.
New York City’s ‘living wage’ law needs an update so that the working conditions for tens of thousands of workers can be improved. Updating NYC’s living wage laws would help to counteract the neglect of workers’ rights likely to occur under Trump’s Department of Labor by protecting workers at the local level. We support policies that:

- **Raise the Living Wage with Cost of Living Adjustments**
  When the City provides a company with a contract, subsidy, or tax break, the company should have to pay a living wage that can support a family, adjusted yearly with a cost-of-living allowance (COLAs).

- **Codify and Expand Labor Peace Agreements**
  Where the City is providing a contract, subsidy, or tax break, workers must be free to organize and collectively bargain through mandated “Labor Peace Agreements.” This right should be codified into law for retail sector workers and expanded beyond retail for all workers covered by living wage laws.

- **Extend Living Wage Requirements to Human Service Contractors**
  Human service employees under City contracts should be paid a living wage that can support a family.

- **Provide Sufficient Funding to Non-Profit Service Providers**
  The City and State must give adequate funding to non-profit human service contractors to pay a living wage (with COLA) and allocate sufficient overhead to help sustain organizations amidst rising costs.
The gender pay gap among municipal employees is 18 cents on the dollar—making it three times larger than the private sector pay gap in New York City. To address this issue, we must eliminate discrimination in hiring, help increase the value of women’s work, and support equitable career advancement:

- **Eliminate Discrimination in Hiring**
  Require that all city agencies develop strategies to eliminate gender disparities in hiring, including directed efforts to women of color.

- **Value Women’s Work**
  Restructure human service contracts to extend and go beyond the living wage for caregivers and ensure that work done in traditionally female sectors is valued and compensated on a comparable level to traditionally male sectors.

- **Prohibit Inquiries About Past Salary History**
  Codify the Mayor’s Executive Order prohibiting City agencies from inquiring about a prospective employee’s salary history during all stages of the employment process and extend this prohibition to all employers.
Expand Human Services to Serve Every New Yorker in Need

During this time of increased need due to federal cuts, we support the expansion of human service contracts to strengthen the not-for-profit human services sector’s ability to improve the lives of New Yorkers in need.
PROTECTING AND CREATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Skyrocketing rents, harassment, and displacement threaten countless New Yorkers. We need new units, but we can’t just build our way out. We must do everything we can to strengthen tenant protections, preserve every affordable unit, require more and deeper affordability, and meet our shared responsibility for housing homeless New Yorkers. And we must plan together – as a city, and as communities – for a future of truly livable, inclusive neighborhoods.
In March 2017, President Trump announced massive cuts in federal funding for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), which houses over 400,000 residents. As it is, our public housing stock is in need of deep repairs, suffering from mold, leaks, and broken elevators. The minimum of $75 million in cuts will be devastating to our city’s most vulnerable residents, and it is imperative that we support them. We believe every resident deserves safe and decent housing. We advocate that the City:

- Fully Fund New York City Housing Authority

With over 400,000 low-income New Yorkers living in more than 178,000 units, NYCHA is the largest provider of stable affordable housing in the country. The City should invest $1 billion per year and commit the Battery Park Authority’s surplus of $40 million a year for 10 years in order to reduce NYCHA’s $17 billion capital deficit.
Affordable housing remains one of the foremost challenges in New York City. New York City's housing crisis has exponentially worsened in recent years. At an increasingly rapid pace, New York City is losing more and more affordable housing units to rising demand, rent destabilization, and predatory landlord harassment. We advocate for:

- **Required Affordability in All New Developments**
  Require affordable units in ALL new multifamily development even where a building is not granted density increases or tax breaks.

- **Public Land for Affordable Housing**
  All available public land designated to include housing units should only be used for permanent, affordable housing, including deeply-affordable units.

- **Community Land Trusts for Vacant and Abandoned Property**
  RFPs and City-owned vacant land should prioritize non-profit and community land trusts over for-profit developers to ensure a mission-driven organization controls the underlying land, not a profit-motivated entity.
Our City continues to face a crisis of homelessness, with over 60,000 homeless New Yorkers – including over 23,000 children – and many more in fear of losing their housing. Surprisingly to many, 70% of the DHS shelter population is comprised of homeless families. The City needs innovative solutions to assist those who are homeless to be placed in high-quality, purpose-built shelter that is safe and appropriate, accompanied by wrap-around services to help them to thrive. We propose focused support for the most vulnerable homeless populations, including families with children, runaway and homeless youth, and those fleeing domestic violence:

- **Permanent Rental Assistance for Homeless**
  Make the Living in Communities (LINC) rental assistance program permanent as long as families qualify for assistance, with the amount tied to inflation and cost of living increases.

- **Prioritize Homeless for Public Housing**
  Connect the most vulnerable New Yorkers to stable affordable housing by prioritizing placement in NYCHA, Section 8, and HPD units.

- **Community Connections**
  Improve intake, placement, and case management to help people use their support systems (family, schools, medical services, places of worship).

- **Halt Homeless Hotels**
  Eliminate the use of hotels for homeless families with children; meanwhile, improve hotel conditions and guarantee regular access to social services.

- **A Fair Start**
  Ensure runaway and homeless youth have support to exit homelessness through access to sufficient crisis beds, long-term housing, and rental assistance.
Rent Roll Back

Increasing rent has plagued low-income New Yorkers for years. We advocate that the Rent Guidelines Board enact a rent rollback for rent-stabilized tenants.

Citywide Certificate of No Harassment

Tenants should be protected from harassment by requiring landlords to prove that no tenants were harassed, before the City grants permission to demolish or alter a residential building.

Fair Housing Plan

With the Trump Administration likely to roll back Federal fair housing requirements, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development should be required to develop and implement a “Fair Housing Plan” to ensure fair inclusion of affordable housing units – at diverse incomes, for the full range of family sizes, and for vulnerable populations such as seniors, people with disabilities, etc. – in neighborhoods across the city.
Comprehensive Plan for NYC

By developing a comprehensive plan, with an emphasis on equity, resilience, infrastructure, and community involvement, we can build a future NYC that is livable and inclusive, even amidst growth and change.

Empower Communities in Neighborhood Planning and City Contracts

New Yorkers should have more input in City processes so neighborhoods are reflective of their residents. These processes include the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) decisions, Deed Restrictions, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) negotiations, “as-of-right” development, and city contracts.

Building a Senior Service Structure

By 2040, seniors will make up 1 in 5 people. Our City needs to fully acknowledge the growing needs of the fastest growing population of New York – one that overwhelmingly includes women and immigrants who are most at risk from funding cuts by the Trump Administration.

End School Overcrowding

More than 500,000 students are currently in overcrowded classrooms, jeopardizing their education, with the ratio of students to teacher exceeding the ability for schools to provide an adequate education. The School Construction Authority is behind in building schools seats for previously identified and projected needs. We must build the seats we need now to accommodate families with children moving into new housing.
Our city has come a long way from the days when there were 700,000 stop-and-frisks a year, dramatically over-concentrated in communities of color. But we still have a long, long way to go if we believe that black and brown lives matter, and if we want a city of genuinely equal justice for all. This will require strong efforts at both advancing police reform and accountability and reforming our criminal justice system.
President Trump has pledged to support the use of discriminatory and hyper-aggressive policing tactics, but progressives must move our city forward, not backward. While community-police relations have improved with a drastic decline in unconstitutional stop-and-frisks, the close scrutiny of stop-and-frisk abuses also revealed other daily police practices that lack transparency and reduce trust in the NYPD. The Right To Know Act is a legislative package that aims to protect the civil and human rights of New Yorkers while promoting communication, transparency and accountability in everyday interactions between the NYPD and the public. The Right To Know Act will:

- **Require Police Officers to Identify Themselves**
  NYPD officers would be required to identify themselves and provide the officer’s name, rank, command and a phone number for the Civilian Complaint Review Board, in written form, at the end of police encounters that do not result in an arrest or summons. The legislation would also require officers to provide the specific reason for their law enforcement activity (e.g. vehicle search, stop-and-frisk).

- **Require Consent to Search**
  The NYPD must obtain informed-consent prior to a search, which is protected by the Fourth Amendment. This bill would require officers to explain that a person has the right to refuse a search when there is no legal justification for a search. In such cases, officers would have to obtain objective proof that an individual gave informed and voluntary consent to a search. With this legislation, we hope to protect New Yorkers from unnecessary and unjustified searches without their consent.
In its 80 years as a jail, Rikers Island has been associated with violence and corruption. The majority of its detainees, mostly men of color, are held there, pre-trial, for non-violent offense charges simply because they are unable to afford bail. We must implement the proposals of the Lippman Commission (Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice and Incarceration) to cut short-term incarceration in half, re-design detention in modern, borough-based, community jails, and close Rikers for good.

- **Reduce Incarceration**
  New York City must continue to reduce the number of people brought into the criminal justice system for low-level offenses by implementing the Criminal Justice Reform Act and further reforms.

- **Diversion, Rehabilitation, and Alternatives**
  People with low-level non-violent offenses should be released on recognizance or pretrial supervision. Those with mental health, substance abuse, community service, employment, or housing needs should be enrolled in alternative programs.

- **Redesign Detention in Borough-Based Community Facilities**
  New detention facilities should be developed as outlined by the Lippman Commission, with safe, modern designs to protect corrections officers and detainees, and with amenities that benefit the surrounding communities.
The over-policing of schools drives NYC youth directly towards juvenile and criminal justice systems. Every day, over 100,000 students have to walk through metal detectors or get pat downs. While the city over-invests in costly policing for schools that are disproportionately low income, black and Latino, these schools remain under-resourced in fundamental areas. Additional investment is also needed to expand restorative justice approaches citywide.

We support a community policing model that encourages police officers to make an effort to establish trust with local residents, making our city safer. This model includes required training that helps law enforcement officials understand and curtail implicit bias. We also support record-keeping by police departments to detail information on population and individual stop patterns in order to prevent racial profiling and prohibit demographic profiling.

Noting how instrumental cameras have been in keeping law enforcement accountable, we support legislation that would inhibit any New York City police officers or peace officer from taking any steps to prevent the recording of their activities, unless such recording would constitute the crime of obstructing governmental administration.
New data shows overwhelmingly that investments in early childhood and public education are essential to social mobility. We will help make sure all New York City children – starting at birth – show up ready for school, prepared to succeed in the evolving economy.
Universal Child Care from Birth to Four

Seventy-six percent of poor children in New York City are not reading on grade level, which by the third grade makes these students several times less likely to graduate than a proficient, wealthier peer. All children should enter school ready to succeed, and early childhood enrichment and education can be the defining difference between a child who is ready for school and one starting school already behind. “Birth to Four” programming starts by working with parents of newborns to provide education, identify needs, and offer need-specific supports to make sure that children show up at school ready to learn. “Birth to Four” programming will not only help ensure that all children enter school ready to achieve success; it can also help families access adequate childcare, easing economic pressures families face when caring for children outside of school.

- **Pre-Kindergarten for All (Three and Four Year-Olds)**
  New York City should build on the tremendous success of Universal Pre-Kindergarten by using federal dollars to expand the program so that every three and four year-old has access in their neighborhood.

- **Early Learning for All**
  For all infants and toddlers, the City should use federal and state dollars to provide families with access to free or affordable childcare and early learning so parents can return to work.

- **Establish a “Birth to Four” Agency**
  City services for young children are spread across too many agencies. A unified “Birth to Four” agency would integrate early childhood services, better identify needs, and nurture children from delivery room to kindergarten.
End Youth Hunger

Over 75% of city public school students are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch, an estimated 780,000 students. However, because of the stigma associated with school lunch—and fear of the required paperwork and documentation required from undocumented families—a third of income eligible city students do not participate in the school lunch program. Overall, 81% of elementary school students eat school lunch, but the number drops to 61% by middle school; 38% in high school. We support maximizing federal incentives programs, while minimizing arduous paperwork to make free meals accessible to all public students:

- **Breakfast After the Bell**
  Breakfast is free before school but children who arrive late can go hungry all day. We must bring breakfast into the classroom so every child gets a chance to start their day on a full stomach, ready to learn.

- **Lunch For Learning**
  The City’s pilot providing universal free school lunch to middle school students must be expanded to all grades. Doing so increases federal funding that covers more than 80 cents on every dollar New York City spends on lunch.

- **Snacks and Supper**
  Two meals a day is a good start but children in public schools need access to snacks and dinner following after-school programming, all of which can be funded with federal dollars for the City.

- **Free Summer Meals**
  The city must provide free summer breakfast, lunch and dinner meals for our city’s youth so children aren’t hungry when they are out of school.
More than six decades after Brown v. Board of Education, the New York City public school system still has a ways to go when it comes to integration and inclusion, as one of the most segregated school systems in the country. Not only are integrated schools and curriculums central to actualizing a more inclusive city, data also shows that school integration and culturally responsive curriculums markedly improve education and student achievement. NYC should:

- **Adopt and Implement a City-wide School Integration Plan**
  The Department of Education (DOE) should enact a comprehensive plan for school integration that engages stakeholders, sets measurable goals, and implements concrete actions at every level of K-12 education.

- **Permit “Controlled Choice” and District-Wide Diversity Implementation**
  Community Education Councils in Districts 1, 3, 13, and 15 are interested in adopting diversity plans district-wide, including the “controlled choice” model which has had success in other cities.

- **Support Schools that Desegregate**
  Provide support for diversity and desegregation efforts including transportation, language access, professional development, and resources for teachers and administrators.

- **Support the Campaign for Culturally Responsive Education (CRE) in NYC**
  CRE must be implemented to ensure that DOE staff and curriculum reflects the rich diversity of NYC.

- **Create School Desegregation Monitor**
  NYC should create an Office of School Integration in the NYC Commission on Human Rights, tasked with issuing recommendations for policies contributing to school segregation, monitoring DOE’s progress, and adherence to civil rights.
High-quality after-school programs can play a critical role in improving young people’s chances of success both in school and in life. By investing in engaged learning opportunities, we can give our young residents an opportunity to cultivate critical skills, while relieving parents of the stress of finding child care or worrying about their children being unsupervised. We support providing all youth with safe, high-quality learning and recreational opportunities including:

- **After School for All**
  The Comprehensive After School System of NYC (COMPASS NYC) must be expanded from 97,000 slots for youth to slots for all 1.1 million students in the public schools they attend and supporting center-based programs.

- **Summer Youth Programs for All**
  School’s Out NYC (SONYC) must be expanded to all public school students, not just middle school, with programming during work hours (9 to 5) so low-income parents can be relieved of childcare and children can receive enrichment.

- **Expand Community Learning Schools:**
  Community Learning Schools provide wrap-around services to families by turning the school into a community center after hours. Students can receive high-quality after-hours academic help, and families can access social services. Through the Adult Literacy initiative, Community Schools have also become established resource for community members seeking to improve literacy skills.
For too many students, the cost of tuition prevents them from starting or completing a college degree, yet high school graduation alone is not enough in today’s economy. High school graduation rates are up in our city, and we must continue investing in our students with access to opportunities to continue education without financial barriers. While CUNY was tuition-free for many students until 1970, because of the city’s fiscal crisis. New York State took over the system and began charging tuition. CUNY should once again be free. But affordability won’t be meaningful without new investment in quality education. Budget cuts have led to large class sizes, an increasing percentage of adjunct faculty, inadequate support for students, and facilities that fall below the standard of the world-class institution that CUNY must remain.

- **Free CUNY**
  CUNY should once again be tuition-free so all students, regardless of citizenship status, have access to a higher education without debt.

- **Strong CUNY**
  CUNY needs 4,000 more full-time faculty to provide appropriate class size, a restructuring of full-time faculty workload for more time for students and research, and funding to support its 12,000 adjunct faculty. We must also increase public investment in CUNY, oppose finance policies that would increase CUNY’s dependence on tuition, baseline capital funding to address CUNY’s backlog of critical building maintenance, and modernize CUNY’s buildings and classrooms for the future.
**Career and Technical Education**

New York City needs career and technical training that will prepare our youth and adults for a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers.

**Health Education with Access to Reproductive Health and Choice**

We must ensure youth have access to age-appropriate health and sexual education programs that give them accurate information and resources they need to understand gender and sexuality so they can make responsible decisions and stay healthy.

**Universal Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**

SYEP provides summer jobs to thousands of youth (ages 14 to 24) from early July to mid-August to build their resumes in a safe location and contribute to their families’ incomes. In 2016, 139,916 youth applied for only 60,113 slots. Youth ages 14 to 24 must have the guarantee of Summer Youth Employment at $15 an hour available for the whole summer, with funding made available by the FY19 Preliminary Budget to ensure program quality.

**Universal Youth Employment**

New York City must guarantee Universal Youth Employment to all youth ages 14 to 24 through new and existing programs such as the Out-of-School, In-School Youth, Young Adult Internship, and Work, Learn & Grow Employment programs. Providers also need more funding to build up their outreach programs and supportive services. This funding will allow providers to more effectively serve youth who are disconnected from work, school, and community groups, via relationships that result in greater service utilization.
Our planet faces an existential crisis, and our must vulnerable communities will suffer the gravest consequences of climate change. We must transition rapidly to 100% clean energy and a far more resilient city.
With the Trump Administration rolling back climate protections and proposing to devastate the EPA budget, cities are more important than ever in the fight to reduce emissions. New York City should take the lead by passing bold climate legislation. New York City alone produces more greenhouse gas emissions than 97 countries, with over 70% of this pollution coming from buildings. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, we must take aggressive action and require the retrofitting of both private and public buildings to reduce emissions and energy use, and use this as an opportunity to create good jobs. We support legislation to:

- **Mandate Retrofits of All Large Private Buildings**
  Owners of large buildings should be required to implement “full-building retrofits” to lower emissions and energy use.

- **Upgrade NYC (Retrofit Public Buildings)**
  New York City should retrofit all of its public buildings for energy efficiency and emissions reduction, with installation of solar and renewable energy wherever feasible, over the next five years.

- **Reinforce Job Standards**
  With these mandates creating thousands of jobs, we should uphold wage, safety, and hiring standards and build on set standards for public projects.
Zero Waste to Landfills by 2030

The City needs to eliminate the need to send our waste to out-of-state landfills, thus minimizing the overall environmental impact of our trash. We support policies that help NYC become a world leader in solid-waste management and achieve Zero Waste by 2030.
ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR ALL

Our transit system must work for all communities - including those currently facing long commutes, unaffordable fares, and crumbling physical infrastructure. Low- and moderate-income communities deserve access to affordable and well-connected transportation, including walkable, bikable, livable streets.
By making the City’s tolling system fairer - reducing tolls that are too high and adding or restoring tolls where traffic is the worst and transit options are plentiful - we can reduce congestion while generating the revenue we need to maintain, modernize, and expand our aging transit system and improve our road and bridge network. We believe that we can achieve this goal while creating more than 30,000 new, local, and annually recurring jobs in the process. Through MoveNY, we aim to:

- **Reduce Congestion**
  Reduce traffic congestion in and around New York City’s Central Business District (CBD).
- **Raise Revenue for Public Transportation**
  Raise revenue to help fill the remaining gap in the MTA’s 2015-2019 Capital Plan and future capital programs.
- **Toll Relief**
  Extend toll relief to drivers using the MTA’s non-CBD crossings and who also tend to have fewer transit options.
- **Eliminate Transit Deserts**
  Add new transit options to better serve the City’s “transit deserts.”
In NYC, 1 in 4 low-income residents cannot afford to use public transportation. Fair Fares would allow those at or below the federal poverty line to purchase reduced-fare MetroCards.

**Fair Fares**

Our city needs a bus-based transit system that delivers fast and cost-effective services through the provision of dedicated lanes, off-board fare collection, and frequent operations. Expanding BRTs would allow buses to reach un-serviced areas and, in particular, would support seniors and vulnerable New Yorkers who rely on this service.

**Expand Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**

We support the further expansion of the CitiBike bike share program in outer boroughs, while including greater community input and a more defined process for expansion.

**CitiBike Expansion**
Protected Bike Lane Expansion

When protected bike lanes are combined with pedestrian and vehicle safety features, quality of life is improved for all New Yorkers. We commit to street design principles and the goals of Vision Zero, and call for more protected bike lane miles with accelerated installation. The increasing number of NYC cyclists deserve a portion of our City’s vital transit infrastructure.

Commuter Rail Equalization (Fair City Ticket)

The MTA should invest in fare equalization measures to decrease the financial burdens on residents who live outside the subway system and rely on commuter rails to get to work. We support allowing riders of commuter rail lines within city limits to pay the same price as a subway or bus rider, with free transfers between commuter rail, subways and buses.
In recent decades, we have badly neglected our democracy as a vehicle for coming together, across difference, to solve problems and achieve common goals. The remarkable outpouring of energy to oppose the Trump administration offers an opportunity for a radical expansion of civic engagement. We will work to channel that energy to renew our democracy.
Although immigrants who are soon to be citizens pay taxes and take on the duties that are expected of any citizen, they are denied the fundamental right to vote. New York should address these barriers through legislation that enfranchises legal permanent residents ("pre-citizens") who reside in New York City to vote in municipal elections.

- **Allow Pre-Citizen Voting in Municipal Elections**
  These voters would be able to vote only in municipal elections for the NYC Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough Presidents, and City Council.

- **Create Separate Voter Registration Lists and Ballots**
  Separate voter registration lists and ballots would be created for municipal voters to ensure that they do not inadvertently vote in federal or state elections, for which they would remain ineligible.

With Donald Trump in the White House and Jeff Sessions leading the Department of Justice, there are very real risks to implementing pre-citizen voting. This is especially true given the current shortcomings of both the City and State Board of Elections, which could put immigrant New Yorkers at risk if it could not properly maintain separate voter registration lists and ballots. (There is even risk that a municipal voter could face criminal charges if the Board of Elections were to mistakenly copy their information from the City to the State voter registry.) Despite the hostility and dangers posed by the Trump Administration – or perhaps because of them – this is a valuable long-term policy objective.
Establish a NYC Office of Civic Engagement

An Office of Civic Engagement could expand opportunities for public participation and public service in order to get people deeply involved in their neighborhoods.

Reform Community Boards

Community boards must more accurately reflect the communities they represent, and provide information on their make-up and who sits on the Boards.

Small Dollar Only Full Public Matching Campaign Finance Reform

Candidates should be able to run for City Council, Borough President, Public Advocate, Comptroller, or Mayor without accepting big-money contributions. The City should provide matching funds that allow candidates to reach the spending cap through matched small-dollar (i.e. up to $175) contributions.
Expand Participatory Budgeting

Last year, 67,000 New Yorkers voted to allocate $38 million for locally-developed projects across 28 districts. But that $38 million is just a tiny fraction of the $82.2 billion dollars spent in FY17. Expanding PB to more districts and more dollars engages more New Yorkers, and starts to give people real decision-making power on how money is spent, making budget decisions clear and accessible.

Student Voter Registration and Mock Voting

Students should be able to vote on real ballot measures and candidates in a non-partisan, educational event that teaches children to grow up to be informed voters.
Resistance & Progress: 18 Progressive Policies for 2018 is endorsed by the following partner organizations:

32BJ SEIU  
African Services Committee  
Central American Legal Assistance (CALA)  
Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York (CCC)  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)  
Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ)  
Coalition for Homeless Youth  
Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)  
Community Development Project (CDP) at the Urban Justice Center (UJC)  
Community Food Advocates (CFA)  
Community Service Society of New York (CSS)  
Community Voices Heard (CVH)  
The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA)  
Jews for Economic and Racial Justice (JFREJ)  
Legal Aid Society  
Make the Road Action (MRA)  
Muslim Community Network (MCN)  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI)  
Pratt Center for Community Development  
Professional Staff Congress at the at the City University of New York (PSC-CUNY)  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU)  
New Economy Project  
Transportation Alternatives (TransAlt)  
United Neighborhood Houses (UNH)  
Working Families Party (WFP)

As of April 2017