

2018 NYC Charter Revision Commission

Executive Summary, Ballot Proposals and Abstracts

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CHARTER
REVISION
COMMISSION

Executive Summary

During his State of the City address on February 13, 2018, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced his intent to appoint a Charter Revision Commission. On April 12, the Mayor appointed Cesar A. Perales as Chair and 14 other distinguished and diverse Commissioners, whose professional biographies are provided in the Introduction of the Final Report.

The Charter Revision Commission is charged with reviewing the entire New York City Charter, soliciting public input, and issuing a report outlining findings and recommendations to amend or revise the Charter. Consistent with this charge, the Commission sought to provide New Yorkers from diverse communities across the five boroughs a range of opportunities to meaningfully participate in the public outreach and engagement process. New Yorkers did not disappoint: they provided a wide variety of comments and ideas for the Commission to consider.

The Commission held its first public meeting on April 19, and subsequently hosted an initial round of public hearings that included one in each of the five boroughs. The Commission also began receiving—and continued to receive throughout the process—many comments, including in multiple languages, by email, paper mail, telephone, social media channels, and its website. Commission staff met with representatives of various organizations, advocacy and good government groups, City agencies, elected officials, and Commissioners and staff members of prior commissions.

The majority of comments fell within five broad policy areas: municipal elections, campaign finance, civic engagement, community boards, and the districting process. Consequently, at its May 31 meeting, the Commission passed a resolution directing the staff to plan issue forums to hear from experts and practitioners on specific topics. Issue forums were held on June 12 on voting and elections, June 14 on campaign finance, June 19 on community boards and land use, and June 21 on civic engagement and districting.

Commissioners and staff also hosted events to reach New Yorkers in their communities. The Commission heard from students at Bay Ridge's P.S. 264, community members at Queens Library in Jackson Heights, nearly a hundred veterans at an event hosted by the NYC Veterans Alliance and FDNY American Legion Post 930, and members of the public at GrowNYC's Grand Army Plaza Greenmarket.

Following this initial cycle of hearings, forums, and events, staff released the 2018 Preliminary Staff Report on July 17. The report focused on the issue areas investigated by the Commission—campaign finance, municipal elections, civic engagement, community boards, the districting process, and themes and proposals from City agencies—as well as other topics that were raised by the public but that staff recommended should be reserved for future consideration. A series of five more public hearings, one in each of the five boroughs, was then held to solicit public comment regarding the report. Commissioners and staff also heard

from the public at a tele-town hall joined by over 4,000 listeners, a Twitter town hall, a table at the St. George Greenmarket in Staten Island, and a roundtable discussion with students from New York City's Summer Youth Employment Program.

At its August 14 meeting, the Commission passed a resolution directing the staff to prepare a final report, ballot questions, and abstracts reflecting proposals focused on campaign finance, civic engagement, community boards, and language access, and to recommend that a future Charter Revision Commission or legislative body consider additional proposals.

After careful review and consideration of the record, the Commission's proposed Charter amendments to be presented to the voters at the November 2018 general election are as follows. Further detail on the proposed amendments can be found in the abstracts that will accompany the ballot questions, and in the Final Report.

Campaign Finance

The Commission proposes to amend the City's campaign finance system in order to address persistent perceptions of corruption associated with large campaign contributions, boost incentives for campaigns to reach out to small donors, and create more opportunities for candidates to run diverse types of campaigns without the need to rely on large donors.

If adopted by the voters, these amendments would:

Significantly lower contribution limits for City elected offices. The maximum total amount a participating candidate (i.e., a candidate who chooses to participate in the City's public financing program) may accept from a contributor per election cycle would be reduced from \$5,100 to \$2,000, for candidates for Mayor, Public Advocate, or Comptroller; from \$3,950 to \$1,500, for candidates for Borough President; and from \$2,850 to \$1,000, for candidates for the City Council. The maximum total contribution to a non-participating candidate (that is, a candidate who does not participate in the City's public financing program) would be reduced from \$5,100 to \$3,500, for candidates for Mayor, Public Advocate, or Comptroller; from \$3,950 to \$2,500, for candidates for Borough President; and from \$2,850 to \$1,500, for candidates for the City Council.

Strengthen small dollar public matching for candidates who participate in the City's public financing program. Currently, participating candidates, who meet certain qualifying thresholds, are eligible to receive public matching funds at a rate of \$6 in public funds for every \$1 in matchable contributions, up to the first \$175 per contributor. The proposed Charter amendment would increase the match to \$8 in public funds for every \$1 in matchable private contributions, up to the first \$250 per contributor to candidates for Citywide office and up to the first \$175 per contributor to candidates for Borough President or City Council. The amendment would also ease a requirement that candidates for Mayor, Comptroller, or Public Advocate must meet to qualify for matching funds.

Increase the total amount of public matching funds available to such candidates. The proposed amendment would increase the cap on the total amount of public matching funds that a participating candidate may receive, per election, from 55% to 75% of the expenditure limit for the office being sought.

Allow such candidates to access public matching funds earlier in the election year.

Under current law, participating candidates who meet the qualifying thresholds for receipt of public funds (“qualifying candidates”) are eligible for an initial small disbursement of public funds in June of the election year. The vast majority of public funds are not disbursed until two weeks after petitions for the primary ballot are filed, which is typically in early August of the election year, about five to six weeks before the primary. The proposed amendment would allow qualifying candidates to receive public matching funds in February and April of the election year, in addition to June, August, and beyond, and would remove monetary limits on the pre-August distribution of funds. However, in order to receive any disbursement of public funds prior to August of the election year, qualifying candidates would have to attest to the need for the funds and demonstrate that they have a viable opponent, or that they are running against an identified opponent in an open election.

After careful review and consideration of the record, the Commission’s proposed Charter amendments to be presented to the voters at the November 2018 general election are as follows. Further detail on the proposed amendments can be found in the abstracts that will accompany the ballot questions, and in the Final Report.

Civic Engagement

The Commission proposes establishing the Civic Engagement Commission, a new Charter entity dedicated to enhancing civic participation and strengthening democracy in New York City. The Civic Engagement Commission would consist of 15 members: eight appointed by the Mayor, including at least one member from the largest political party and at least one member from the second largest political party; two appointed by the Speaker of the City Council; and one appointed by each Borough President. The Mayor would designate a Chair from among his or her appointees, who would also serve as the Executive Director and be charged with the organization and staffing of the office.

The Civic Engagement Commission would be authorized and directed to implement a Citywide participatory budgeting program established by the Mayor, no later than the City Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020; establish a program for providing language interpreters at poll sites in New York City, to be implemented for the general election in 2020; support and partner with community-based organizations, institutions, and civic leaders in the public and private sectors in their civic engagement efforts; consider the language access needs of limited-English-proficient New Yorkers in developing and implementing its programs and services; and partner with City agencies to increase awareness of and access to City services, assist them in promoting civic engagement initiatives, and develop strategies to centralize

public information about opportunities for civic engagement.

The Mayor would be authorized to transfer to the Commission, by executive order, any directly related powers and duties currently being performed by the Mayor's Office or any department whose head is appointed by the Mayor.

Finally, the Civic Engagement Commission would be required to annually report on participatory budgeting, poll site language assistance, and any other information it deems relevant.

These amendments would take effect on April 1, 2019.

Community Boards

The Commission proposes the following amendments to the Charter, in order to help make community boards more reflective of the communities they represent and more effective in that representation:

Term limits. The Commission proposes term limits for community board members, who currently serve for two-year terms without limit, to create opportunities for new voices and leaders on all community boards. Members appointed or reappointed on or after April 1, 2019, would be limited to serving four consecutive two-year terms. However, members appointed or reappointed for a term commencing on April 1, 2020, could be reappointed for up to five consecutive two-year terms, in order to prevent a heavy turnover of community board membership in 2027 and 2028. Appointments made for terms commencing after April 1, 2020, would be subject to four consecutive two-year term limits. These term limits would be prospective only; terms served before April 1, 2019, or April 1, 2020, would not count toward the term limits that start on those dates. Members who have served for the maximum number of consecutive terms would not be barred from re-appointment after one full term out of office.

Appointment process. The Commission proposes several changes intended to bring more uniformity and transparency to the process of appointing members to community boards and to encourage diversity in appointments. The proposed amendments would require Borough Presidents to seek out persons of diverse backgrounds for appointment to community boards and make applications available on their websites. The proposal would also add new application and reporting requirements related to these appointments, including an annual report disclosing information about membership and the recruitment and selection process.

More resources. The Commission proposes requiring the Civic Engagement Commission, if the voters approve creating such an entity, to provide additional resources to community boards, including access to urban planning professionals and language access resources, in

order to enable the boards to more effectively meet their Charter responsibilities.

The amendments relating to term limits and the appointment process would take effect on January 1, 2019. The amendments related to resources provided by the Civic Engagement Commission would take effect on April 1, 2019, but only if the ballot questions relating to community boards and the Civic Engagement Commission are both adopted by the voters.

Issues for Future Consideration

The Districting Process

The Commission also received a considerable volume of public comments about the districting process. After every decennial census, the Mayor and the City Council must appoint a 15-member Districting Commission to draw City Council district lines to accommodate changes in population. The next districting plan will take effect in 2023, and the Commission heard a variety of proposals relating to the process by which district lines are drawn. These proposals can be sorted into four themes: i) promoting political independence and diversity in the Districting Commission's appointment process; ii) ensuring transparency and public participation; iii) protecting the City's minority communities after the loss of the Voting Rights Act's pre-clearance mechanism; and iv) counteracting a potential undercount in the 2020 U.S. Census.

The Commission heard compelling testimony that this is an issue in need of urgent attention. However, after careful consideration of the above public proposals, the Commission has determined that further research, outreach, and analysis is needed before recommending any of these proposals be submitted to the voters. Given the testimony received in this process, the Commission urges future Commissions to take up the analysis of this issue in order to present to the voters an amendment designed to effectuate a fair and independent districting process for all New Yorkers.

Ranked Choice Voting

The Commission also received a considerable volume of public comment about ranked choice voting. Members of the public and various City elected officials urged the Commission to consider proposing a Charter amendment implementing ranked choice voting (otherwise known as "instant runoff voting"), which permits voters to rank multiple candidates on their ballots in order of preference.

After careful consideration of these proposals, the Commission believes that further research, outreach, and analysis is appropriate before presenting any such proposal to the voters. The Commission recommends that a future Charter Revision Commission or other legislative body study the important and complex questions these proposals raise about representation

in our local democracy and consider presenting future ballot proposals or passing legislation to address them.

Election Modernization

Based on input from experts, advocates, and members of the public, the Commission has determined that a significant way to increase voter turnout in the City is to reform regressive State election laws that impose significant barriers to participation. The Commission strongly supports State legislation in the areas of electronic poll books, no-excuse absentee voting, same-day registration, pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-olds, and the streamlining of the functions of the New York City Board of Elections.

Structure of Government and Community Concerns

In furtherance of its mandate to review the entire Charter, the Commission scrutinized the functions and processes of City government and the balance of power between the City's elected officials. The Commission also reviewed the health and structure of City government, viewed from the perspective of the communities and groups who submitted comments to the Commission. Although this Commission is not submitting ballot proposals relating to these topics, the final section of this report discusses many of these themes, which served as valuable guides in this Commission's review of the Charter.

Proposed Amendments to the Charter

A. Campaign Finance

Ballot Question #1: Campaign Finance

This proposal would amend the City Charter to lower the amount a candidate for City elected office may accept from a contributor. It would also increase the public funding used to match a portion of the contributions received by a candidate who participates in the City's public financing program.

In addition, the proposal would make public matching funds available earlier in the election year to participating candidates who can demonstrate need for the funds. It would also ease a requirement that candidates for Mayor, Comptroller, or Public Advocate must meet to qualify for matching funds.

The amendments would apply to participating candidates who choose to have the amendments apply to their campaigns beginning with the 2021 primary election, and would then apply to all candidates beginning in 2022.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

Abstract

This proposal would amend the City Charter to lower the amount that a candidate for City elected office may accept from a contributor. It would also increase the public funding used to match a portion of the contributions received by a candidate who participates in the City's public financing program. In addition, the proposal would make public matching funds available earlier in the election year to participating candidates who can demonstrate need for the funds. It would also ease a requirement that candidates for Mayor, Comptroller, or Public Advocate must meet to qualify for matching funds.

Contribution Limits. Currently, the maximum total amount a candidate may accept from a contributor per election cycle (including both the primary and general elections) is (a) \$5,100 for candidates for Mayor, Public Advocate, or Comptroller ("Citywide offices"); (b) \$3,950 for candidates for Borough President; and (c) \$2,850 for candidates for the City Council. These limits apply both to candidates who choose to participate in the public financing program ("participating candidates") and to those who do not ("non-participating candidates") and are indexed to inflation.

Under the proposed Charter amendments, these contribution limits would be reduced. The maximum total amount a *participating* candidate may accept from a contributor per election cycle would be \$2,000 for candidates for Mayor, Public Advocate, or Comptroller; \$1,500 for candidates for Borough President; and \$1,000 for candidates for the City Council. The maximum total amount a *non-participating* candidate may accept from a contributor per election cycle would be \$3,500 for candidates for Mayor, Public Advocate, or Comptroller; \$2,500 for candidates for Borough President; and \$1,500 for candidates for the City Council. The proposed contribution limits for *participating* candidates are lower than those for *non-participating* candidates because only *participating* candidates are eligible to receive public matching funds. The proposed amendment would not alter existing prohibitions and limits based on the identity of the contributor, including the prohibition on contributions from corporations, LLCs, and partnerships, and the limits on contributions from lobbyists and those doing business with the City. Additionally, all contribution limits would continue to be indexed to inflation.

Office	Current Limit	Proposed Limit (Participants)	Proposed Limit (Non-participants)
Citywide offices	\$5,100	\$2,000	\$3,500
Borough President	\$3,950	\$1,500	\$2,500
City Council	\$2,850	\$1,000	\$1,500

Public Funds Matching Formula. Currently, participating candidates, who meet certain qualifying thresholds, are eligible to receive public matching funds at a rate of \$6 in public funds for every \$1 in matchable contributions, up to the first \$175 per contributor. Thus, a \$500 contribution is currently matched with \$1,050 in public funds (6 x \$175), generating a total of \$1,550 for the candidate.

Under the proposed Charter amendments, the public match would be increased to \$8 in public funds for every \$1 in matchable private contributions, up to the first \$250 per contributor to candidates for Citywide office and up to the first \$175 per contributor to candidates for Borough President or City Council. Thus, a \$500 contribution to a candidate for Citywide office would be matched with \$2,000 in public funds (8 x \$250), generating a total of \$2,500 for the candidate, and a \$500 contribution to a candidate for Borough President or City Council would be matched with \$1,400 (8 x \$175) for a total of \$1,900. The proposed amendment would not alter existing laws that render certain contributions ineligible for public matching, such as contributions from lobbyists and those doing business with the City.

Office	Current Match	Proposed Match
Citywide offices	6:1 on first \$175	8:1 on first \$250
Borough President	6:1 on first \$175	8:1 on first \$175
City Council	6:1 on first \$175	8:1 on first \$175

Maximum Amount of Public Funds (“Public Funds Cap”). Under current law, the total amount of public matching funds that a participating candidate may receive, per election, is capped at 55% of the expenditure limit applicable to participating candidates for the office being sought. Under the proposed amendments, the cap on the total amount of public matching funds that a participating candidate may receive, per election, would be increased from 55% to 75% of the expenditure limit for the office being sought. Thus, based on the current expenditure limits, which are indexed to inflation and which these amendments do not alter, the maximum amount of public matching funds available to candidates would increase as shown in the table below:

Office	Current Public Funds Cap (55% of Expenditure Limit)	Proposed Public Funds Cap (75% of Expenditure Limit)
Mayor	\$4,007,300	\$5,464,500
Comptroller or Public Advocate	\$2,505,250	\$3,416,250
Borough President	\$902,000	\$1,230,000
City Council	\$104,500	\$142,500

Qualifying Thresholds. To qualify for public funds, participating candidates currently must raise matchable contributions totaling at least certain threshold dollar amounts (differing by office), counting only the first \$175 per donor. The proposed amendments would not alter the monetary thresholds, but would permit candidates for Citywide offices to count the first \$250 per donor, tracking the change in the matching formula for those offices. This would make it somewhat easier for candidates for Citywide offices to qualify for matching funds.

Timing of Disbursement of Public Funds. Under current law, participating candidates who meet the qualifying thresholds for receipt of public funds (“qualifying candidates”) are eligible for an initial disbursement of public funds in June of the election year. That disbursement is limited to \$250,000 for candidates for Mayor, \$125,000 for candidates for Comptroller and Public Advocate, \$50,000 for candidates for Borough President, and \$10,000 for candidates for City Council. The remaining public funds are not disbursed until two weeks after petitions for the primary ballot are filed, which is typically in early August of the election year, about five to six weeks before the primary.

The proposed amendments would allow qualifying candidates to receive public matching funds in February and April of the election year, in addition to June, August, and beyond, and would remove the monetary limits on the pre-August distribution of funds. However, qualifying candidates would not be eligible to receive any disbursement of public funds prior to August of the election year unless they submit a certified statement attesting to the need for the funds and demonstrating that they meet provisions in the current law that require candidates seeking more than a certain amount of public funds to show that they have a viable opponent or that they are running against an identified opponent in an open election.

Implementation. The proposed Charter amendments regarding campaign finance would apply to participating candidates who choose to have the amendments apply to their campaigns beginning with the 2021 primary election. The amendments would then apply to all candidates beginning in 2022. Those candidates who choose to operate under the post-amendment system for the 2021 primary and general elections will be allowed to retain any campaign contributions received prior to January 12, 2019, to the extent such contributions complied with the pre-amendment law, and such contributions would be eligible for public matching under the pre-amendment law.

B. Civic Engagement

Ballot Question #2: Civic Engagement Commission

This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

Create a Civic Engagement Commission that would implement, no later than the City Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020, a Citywide participatory budgeting program established by the Mayor to promote participation by City residents in making recommendations for projects in their communities;

Require the Commission to partner with community based organizations and civic leaders, as well as other City agencies, to support and encourage civic engagement efforts;

Require the Commission to establish a program to provide language interpreters at City poll sites, to be implemented for the general election in 2020;

Permit the Mayor to assign relevant powers and duties of certain other City agencies to the Commission;

Provide that the Civic Engagement Commission would have 15 members, with 8 members appointed by the Mayor, 2 members by the City Council Speaker and 1 member by each Borough President; and

Provide for one of the Mayor's appointees to be Commission Chair and for the Chair to employ and direct Commission staff.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

Abstract

This proposal would establish a new Civic Engagement Commission in order to enhance civic participation, promote civic trust, and strengthen democracy in New York City. The Commission would consist of 15 members. Of the 15 members, the Mayor would appoint eight members, including at least one member from the largest political party and at least one member from the second largest political party; the Speaker of the City Council would appoint two members; and each Borough President would appoint one member. The Mayor, Speaker, and Borough Presidents would be required to consider candidates who are representative of, or have experience working with, immigrants, individuals with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, students, youth, seniors, veterans, community groups, good government groups, civil rights advocates, and categories of residents that are otherwise historically underrepresented in or underserved by City government.

Members of the Commission, who must be residents of the City, would be prohibited from serving as an officer of a political party or being a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, or City Council Member. Commissioners other than the Chair, who would serve at the pleasure of the Mayor, would serve four-year terms, except that initial appointees, whose terms would commence on April 1, 2019, would serve terms ranging from two to four years. This ensures that terms of members end in different years, with the purpose of preventing wholesale turnover of the commission and promoting continuity.

The Mayor would designate a Chair, who would also serve as the Executive Director, from among his or her appointees to the Civic Engagement Commission. The Chair/Executive Director would be charged with the organization and staffing of the office.

The Civic Engagement Commission would have, subject to appropriation, the following powers and duties:

- Implement a Citywide participatory budgeting program established by the Mayor, to be implemented no later than the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2020, and establish a participatory budgeting advisory committee;
- Develop new initiatives to support and partner with community-based organizations, institutions, and civic leaders in the public and private sectors in their civic engagement efforts;
- Develop a plan to consider the language access needs of limited English proficient New Yorkers in developing and implementing its programs and services;
- Establish a program for providing language interpreters at poll sites in New York City to be implemented in the 2020 general election and a language assistance advisory committee to provide recommendations for such program; and
- Partner with New York City agencies to increase awareness of and access to City services, assist the agencies in developing and promoting civic engagement initiatives, and develop strategies to centralize public information about opportunities for civic engagement.

The Commission would also be required to annually report on participatory budgeting, poll site language assistance, and any other information it deems relevant.

The Mayor would be authorized to transfer to the Commission, by executive order, any directly related powers and duties currently being performed by the Mayor's Office or any department whose head is appointed by the Mayor. Heads of Mayoral agencies would be required to cooperate with and offer assistance to the Commission in carrying out its functions.

If approved by the voters, these amendments would take effect on April 1, 2019.

C. Community Boards

Ballot Question #3: Community Boards

This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

Impose term limits of a maximum of four consecutive full two-year terms for community board members with certain exceptions for the initial transition to the new term limits system;

Require Borough Presidents to seek out persons of diverse backgrounds in making appointments to community boards. The proposal would also add new application and reporting requirements related to these appointments; and

If Question 2, "Civic Engagement Commission," is approved, require the proposed Civic Engagement Commission to provide resources, assistance, and training related to land use and other matters to community boards.

Shall this proposal be adopted?

Abstract

The City's community boards are advisory bodies with a formal role designated by the City Charter in various matters, including land use. This Charter amendment would: (a) impose term limits of a maximum of four consecutive full two-year terms for community board members with certain exceptions for the initial transition to the new term limits system; (b) require Borough Presidents to seek out persons of diverse backgrounds in making appointments to community boards and set forth application and reporting mandates related to such appointments; and (c) require the proposed Civic Engagement Commission to provide resources, assistance, and training related to land use and other matters to community boards.

Term Limits. Community board members are appointed by the Borough Presidents, with input by City Council Members and community groups. For each community district, the Borough President appoints up to 50 community board members for staggered two-year terms. The Charter does not currently impose term limits for community board members. This proposal would limit appointment of community board members to four consecutive two-year terms, starting with terms for which appointments or reappointments are made on or after April 1, 2019. However, members appointed or reappointed for a term commencing on April 1, 2020, could be reappointed for up to five consecutive two-year terms, in order to prevent a heavy turnover of community board membership in 2027 and 2028. Appointments made for terms commencing after April 1, 2020, would be subject to four consecutive two-

year term limits. These term limits would be prospective only; terms served before April 1, 2019, or April 1, 2020, would not count toward the term limits that start on those dates. Additionally, members who have served for the maximum number of consecutive terms would not be barred from re-appointment after one full term out of office.

Appointment Process. The Charter provides for the nomination and appointment of community board members. Under the Charter, the Borough President must assure adequate representation from the different geographic sections and neighborhoods within the community district, and consider whether the aggregate of appointments fairly represents all segments of the community. Members must reside in the City and maintain a residence, business, professional, or other significant interest in the community district. Not more than 25% of the appointed members may be City employees, and none may be employees of the Borough President or nominating City Council Member. Members must be at least 16 years old, and no more than two members of each community board shall be less than 18 years of age.

This proposal would require Borough Presidents to seek out persons of diverse backgrounds, including with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, sexual orientation, and language, as well as other factors which the Borough President may consider important in promoting diversity and inclusion of underrepresented groups and communities on community boards, to apply for appointment to community boards.

This proposal would also require Borough Presidents to make available on their websites applications for community board membership, and require the applications to request certain information regarding the applicant: name; address; residence, business, professional or other significant interest in the community district; past service on a community board; age; work and education history, special skills, and professional licenses; relevant professional, civic, or community involvement experience; an option to provide additional demographic information that the applicant chooses to disclose; and any additional information that the Borough President determines is relevant or necessary to the application process. The application would also be required to include a statement describing the applicant's interest in the position, disclosures of City employment and potential conflicts of interest, and a certification that the applicant meets all requirements for the position and will abide by all applicable conflicts of interest laws.

Additionally, this proposal would require Borough Presidents, starting on July 1, 2019 and annually thereafter, to submit to the Mayor and Speaker of the City Council, and make available on Borough President websites, a report disclosing information about community board membership and the recruitment and selection process. The report would include: the number of vacant community board member positions, the number of applicants for open community board member positions, the number of applicants interviewed, and the names of members and their dates of appointment or reappointment, length of service, nominating City Council Member or other nominating party, and community board leadership positions, if any. The report would also include demographic information about community board members that was voluntarily disclosed, in aggregated and anonymous form; the Borough

President's plan for recruiting candidates and filling vacancies, including outreach efforts and methods used to promote a diverse and inclusive pool of candidates; a general description of the evaluation criteria used by the Borough President to select members; and any tools used by the Borough President to promote objectivity in the selection process.

Assistance and Training. This proposal would require the proposed Civic Engagement Commission, subject to appropriation and in consultation and coordination with the Department of City Planning, other relevant City agencies, and the Borough Presidents to the extent practicable, to provide assistance and training to community boards beyond the forms of assistance now provided by City agencies. The Civic Engagement Commission would be required to identify qualified firms, professional staff members, or consultants to provide urban planning and other technical assistance related to land use matters, and to administer a program for providing such services to community boards upon request. It would be required, to the extent practicable, to ensure that these forms of assistance are provided impartially to all community boards, in a manner consistent with their needs and objectives, and to provide a means for community boards to give feedback regarding the assistance provided to them. The Civic Engagement Commission would also be required, in consultation with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, to identify and provide services requested by community boards to address the needs of limited English proficient individuals, such as staff training and language assistance tools. This element of the proposal would only become effective if this ballot question and the ballot question establishing the Civic Engagement Commission are both approved.

This proposal would also require community boards to maintain websites that provide adequate public notice of upcoming meetings, minutes from past meetings for the previous twelve months, and contact information. The Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT) would be required to provide technical assistance and support to community boards in maintaining websites and assistance to the Borough Presidents in making community board applications available online.

Effective Date. These amendments would take effect on January 1, 2019, except that the amendments requiring a proposed Civic Engagement Commission to provide resources to community boards would take effect on April 1, 2019.