

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CENTER, INC.

“ONE COMMUNITY, NO EXCLUSION”

Mayoral Questionnaire

Who are we? Q1

Do you agree that all our neighborhoods should belong to all of us, regardless of the New Yorker’s neighborhood of origin, and regardless of the neighborhood into which that New Yorker might want to relocate?

Housing Q1

What is the single most important thing that could be done under the City’s authority (i.e., not requiring permission or assistance from Albany or Washington) to strengthen security of tenure for tenants?

Housing Q2

Do you believe that NYCHA should construct new public housing? If so, do you commit to having that housing built in neighborhoods where there is little or no public housing currently?

Housing Q3

What do you understand the difference to be between community housing trusts on the one hand and municipal (citywide) housing trusts on the other? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Housing Q4

Where do you stand on the imposition of a pied-a-terre tax where the revenues would be dedicated to building affordable housing?

Housing Q5

This question on “affordable for whom” relates only to affordable housing developed during your first term (not your second term). In your AMI mix, what is the highest AMI you would seek to produce some units for? 50 percent? 60 percent? 80 percent? Other?

Housing Q6

Would you create a pilot program in one or more strong-market areas whereby NYC itself acquired and developed mixed-income housing where cross-subsidy would be raised by selling condominium units at market rate and where the balance of units were held by the City for affordable rental occupancy?

Housing Q7

How residentially segregated is New York City?

Housing Q8

Do you see residential segregation as a problem? Why or why not?

Housing Q9

Some of you have endorsed the recommendations set forth in the United for Housing report. The segregation metric used (the “racial diversity index”) works to hide exclusion – virtually no Black residents are needed for an area to be “integrated enough” per the United for Housing target (an RDI of at least .50). In other words, most of one of the most segregated cities in the country already meets the metric, including these CDs (showing percentage of Black residents): Bay Ridge (BK 10) at 2.9 percent; Woodside/Sunnyside (Q2) at 1.5%; and Clinton/Chelsea (M4) at 4.0%. Were you aware of this?

Housing Q10

Do you commit to a more ambitious target than the one set out in Housing Question 9? Please specify.

Housing Q11

NYC’s community preference policy in affordable housing lotteries creates disparate impacts on the basis of race and stymies the integrative moves that New Yorkers want to make. The City’s defenses include the resurrection of “separate but equal.” The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law submitted an amicus brief in favor of the federal court fair housing challenge to the policy, saying “Amicus curiae respectfully submits this brief in order to highlight the important ways in which the positions urged on this Court by Defendant City of New York (the ‘City’) would not only deprive the Plaintiffs (and hundreds of thousands of other New York City households) of their fair housing rights, but would, if accepted, also deal devastating blows to the ability of anyone in the United States to vindicate the rights guaranteed them by the FHA.”

Do you support eliminating the “community preference” policy?

Housing Q12

When a family seeks to buy a coop apartment in New York City, that family, having entered into a contract with the current owner and gotten a bank to agree to provide financing, still has to get the approval of a coop board. When a coop board rejects a buyer, the universal industry practice is to refuse to provide a reason. Intro 761, a bill to require coop boards to provide the reasons for their turndowns, would provide transparency and accountability, and is supported by Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Disability Rights Advocates, ERASE Racism, Fair Housing Justice Center, Housing Rights Initiative, Lambda Legal, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund,

Inc., National Fair Housing Alliance, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and New York Appleseed.

Do you support Intro 761?

Housing Q13

Do you believe that the suburban counties surrounding NYC have taken on their fair share of facilitating the construction of affordable housing and, if not, would you be prepared to evaluate steps that NYC could take to force them to do so?

Education Q1

What do you think are the three most important things that a parent wants to know about a school for that parent's child? (If separate answers for K-5, junior high school, and high school, please specify.)

Education Q2

In the wake of the disruptions of the last 15 months – and separate and apart from what you believe needs to be done for children emotionally and psychologically – do you believe it is important to assess students academically in preparation for placement, remediation, and enrichment for the 2021-22 school year?

Education Q3

Is there any limit to the range of academic readiness that a teacher should reasonably be expected to accommodate in his or her classroom? Expressed in terms of “grade level,” what is that limit? [Being able to work with a group of students ranging from second-grade level through fourth-grade level would yield the answer “a 3-year range,” for example.]

Education Q4

In elementary school, do you see any advantages to a model whereby students are placed in an academically heterogeneous room for parts of the day, but also separated into more homogeneous academic groupings for other parts of the day? Explain.

Education Q5

Leaving aside “specialized” high schools, and leaving aside whether the terminology “advanced placement” is used, should there be classes that are designed to meet the needs of students who are at the “top of the curve” in terms of readiness for advanced material?

Education Q6

Do you agree that we have not invested sufficient resources in making sure that every student is reading at or above grade level by the end of second or third grade?

Education Q7

Achieving the goal set out in Education Q6 seems both essential and expensive. What is the scope and nature of necessary additional personnel, and how much would that cost?

Education Q8

Do you believe that there is a way to allow and encourage a variety of academic and (what used to be called) vocational paths while at the same time having an ongoing “audit” process to make sure that students are not being stereotyped by race, gender, or another demographic category?

Education Q9

Do you believe that residential segregation plays a significant role in the segregation of K-5 schools?

Education Q10

As you begin your first term, there will still be thousands of students who are homeless, and they will be disproportionately concentrated in a relatively small percentage of schools. What steps, if any, will you take to reduce that disproportionate concentration? [This is not a question about permanent housing, except to the extent to which you wish to comment on whether you would offer currently homeless families permanent housing throughout the city, not just in the neighborhood in which they are currently living.]

Education Q11

Do you agree that a non-trivial percentage of New York City public school teachers are not up to the task either in terms of their subject matter expertise or their classroom skills or both?

Education Q12

Do you commit to tying any tax abatements to be given to companies for locating to or remaining in New York City to their agreement to hire graduates of NYC high-school vocational and technical programs?

Education Q13

Which of the following do you agree with, if any? “Among the greatest joys of reading are seeing yourself in ostensibly-different others and seeing ostensibly-different others in you. Students’ commonalities matter even more than their differences.”

Education Q14

Are good attendance and punctuality important skills/traits for students to have? If so, how should they be inculcated?

Education Q15

Describe a type of repeated classroom disruption by a student that, while relatively minor, nevertheless harms the ability of other students to learn (if you believe there is such a thing). Who would be harmed more: students who have an abundance of out-of-school resources to draw on or those who do not?

Public health/hospitals Q1

Do you agree that relatively few people who have the option to go elsewhere choose Health & Hospitals (HHC) facilities/doctors?

Public health/hospitals Q2

Would you create a pilot program to turn an HHC hospital into a flagship hospital with in-patient and out-patient services as good or better than New York-Presbyterian or Mount Sinai or NYU Langone? [If your answer is that there is already such an HHC hospital, please identify it.]

Public health/hospitals Q3

What would you do to make sure that every woman in New York City – regardless of income or neighborhood – had access to top-quality prenatal and maternal health care, including, if she wished, to a top-quality OB/GYN?

Crime Q1

Do you agree that there is a great variation between and among neighborhoods in how safe they are for residents? Name five neighborhoods that you would characterize as “high crime” neighborhoods.

Crime Q2

Please list the categories of criminal violations that you WOULD want to see continued to be prosecuted.

Crime Q3

To what extent do you believe that the traditional police culture of “we can’t let him get away” leads to unnecessary police-suspect violent confrontations and when might a different approach be useful?

Crime Q4

What are factors other than race that lead to unjustified police use of force?

Crime Q5

Do you believe that the recently passed legislation narrowing the availability of qualified immunity went far enough? Explain.

Moral and political philosophy Q1

Identify a couple of issues that you view in a “rights” framework and a couple that you view in a “privilege” framework. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each framework?

Moral and political philosophy Q2

Define what you understand to be “opportunity” versus “equity” frameworks, include a couple of examples of where you reject one for the other, and discuss the pros and cons of each framework.

Moral and political philosophy Q3

Provide your understanding of the term “essentialism” and your view of an essentialist philosophy.

Third rail Q1

Identify something you’ve told New Yorkers during this campaign despite your expecting that many would not want to hear you identify that problem or offer that prescription.

Third rail Q2

What is something else that New Yorkers need to hear that many may not want to hear?

Music Q1

Name your favorite Tracy Chapman song not on either her debut album or on Crossroads.

Music Q2

Name your favorite Bob Dylan song on any album after Desire.

Music Q3

Name your favorite Rhiannon Giddens song.