



Dear Downtown Independent Democrats:

I am honored to seek the endorsement of DID, one of the most esteemed forces in our progressive movement.

Though the Village Independent Democrats is my home club, I'm so proud to have been a member of DID for many years. Over that time, we have organized together, knocked on doors together, traveled to swing states together, phone banked together, petitioned together, and agitated together for causes and candidates we believe in.

Now I am running to represent my community on the New York City Council. Our City is facing challenges unlike any in our history, but also opportunities that we must seize. I'm asking for your support and partnership as we rise to this moment together.

My career in public service began in 2009 as the LGBTQ & HIV/AIDS Community Liaison at the New York City Council, where I organized grassroots campaigns on issues including transgender rights, hate crimes, housing for people with HIV/AIDS, and marriage equality.

In 2011, Governor Cuomo hired me to help lead his team fighting for marriage equality in New York State. I organized activists and allies from Buffalo to Montauk in an unprecedented grassroots campaign to garner support for the Marriage Equality Act. That June, New York State made history as the largest state to permit same sex marriage.

In 2015, I joined the team of Council Member Corey Johnson as his Chief of Staff in Council District 3. Since then, I have worked tirelessly for the residents of Council District 3, fighting for more green space, better schools, affordable housing, senior services, and more.

When Hartley House, the 115 year-old settlement house in Hell's Kitchen, was threatened with closure, I worked with community leaders to come up with a plan to prevent its sale to private developers. When our State's rent stabilization laws were being held up in Albany, I was arrested alongside tenant activists for blocking the entryway to the Governor's office. When the COVID-19 crisis hit, I took action, building an expansive volunteer network that made weekly wellness calls to thousands of home-bound seniors, and delivered tens of thousands of meals to food insecure residents across the district. Additionally, I've been organizing community cleanups in the Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen.

As a co-founder of United Thru Action, a resistance group created in the days following the 2016 presidential election, I have been a committed fighter for progressive values in electoral politics. Working with DID and others, I helped organize dozens of buses of volunteers that traveled to swing districts during the 2016 and 2018 election cycles, and was active in the fight to defeat the I.D.C., which gave Democrats true control over the New York State Senate.

This year, I organized weekly phone banks for 17 weeks to help ensure the defeat of the most dangerous president in American history. Over 1,000 volunteers participated, including many DID members, and we made tens of thousands of phone calls to voters in swing states.

I believe it is crucial to exercise leadership during election cycles. If our policy goals are to be realized, we need progressives in office at all levels of government.

Times of crisis call for proven leadership, and the COVID-19 crisis has put New York City's survival on the line. On the City Council, I will fight for

- **a society free of the systemic racism that affects every aspect of life for people of color**
- **a recovery that brings back our small businesses and theater industry**
- **an end to the inequities in mental health care and housing that have created a heartbreaking homelessness crisis on our streets**
- **an end to the utterly shameful conditions in NYCHA housing**
- **a safe, livable city that works for everyone, not just the ultra-wealthy**
- **world-class schools for all children**
- **neighborhoods filled with affordable homes for full-time residents, not empty investment units**

Our campaign is a people-powered, grassroots campaign that is not accepting contributions from real estate developers, anyone employed at a lobbying firm, or corporate PACs. I have the support of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), TenantsPAC, the LGBTQ Victory Fund and a large and growing coalition of residents and leaders across Council District 3.

Please feel free to contact me at [info@erikbottcher.com](mailto:info@erikbottcher.com) or via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#). Also, you can visit my website at [www.erikbottcher.com](http://www.erikbottcher.com).

Thank you for everything you do. I truly believe that if we come together and rise to this moment, New York City's best days are still ahead.

Yours always,



Erik Bottcher

