

Campaign Information

What is your name?

Edwin Raymond

What are your preferred pronouns?

He/Him/His

What office are you running for?

City Council District 40

Who is the point of contact for your campaign and what is the best way to get in touch with them?

Rebekah Kenitzer

rebekah@edwinraymond.com

(719) 649-5203

What is your campaign address?

584 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11225

What is your campaign phone number?

Unfortunately, we do not have a campaign phone number, Rebekah is the main point of contact for any folks who have questions.

What is your campaign email?

info@edwinraymond.com

What is your campaign website?

www.edwinraymond.com

Is your campaign on social media? If so, what platform(s) and what are the names?

Instagram: raymondfor40

Twitter: EdwinRaymondNYC

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/edwin.raymond.549>

Campaign Issues

What would you do to improve healthcare as a city council member?

I will stand with nurses, residents, physicians and interns with their Bill of Rights to give them a living wage, better work hours, time off for being sick and access for parental leave and healthcare. We protect the quality of healthcare and patient care by protecting our healthcare workers. Healthcare workers work more than 80 hours a week, with poor working conditions while reusing PPE. This leads to poorer health of our residents and many times, black and brown communities live in areas with public hospitals that are overcrowded and underfunded.

Healthcare infrastructure needs to be a priority in city budgeting and the implementation of the Patient Care Funds is one way to supplement ways to provide better resident-patient interactions. I stand with legislation that establishes just cause and whistleblower protections for health care workers, preventing them from being fired for speaking publicly about conditions in their institutions. Protecting our essential workers is one of the best ways to ensure their well-being as well as continue quality care for patients.

There needs to be major improvements in hospital and clinic funding to overall improve staffing. This will ultimately help physicians, residents and interns stop from working a dangerously high number of hours and not devote a majority of their time to non-clinical work. I will be a supporter and advocate for the Residents' Bill of Rights, specifically for the demand of maintenance of back-up call schedules for every residency program.

I will ensure that the New York Health Act is providing comprehensive, universal health coverage for every New York resident and worker, and replacing existing private insurance company coverage. Various languages in universal health coverage campaigns must be provided to include our non-English speaking communities. It is about providing an active platform/program/campaign that will have folks fill out the designated forms to receive universal health coverage. Our transient and homeless communities must be included and fully aware of universal health coverage in New York City. Legislation is only as effective as its implementation and tools have to be provided for communities that do not have ready access to technology or a hospital.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district specifically immigrant rights and access to resources and what would you do to address them?

I am an advocate and being a child of Haitian parents that immigrated to the United States, I will continue fighting to keep DACA in place. ICE enforcement has brought fear into undocumented communities, leading to individuals refraining from seeking medical attention. The public charge rule is an oppressive policy to keep undocumented individuals from public services. Detention centers are inhumane as they have been

found time and time again to have poor infrastructural conditions, lacking in healthcare services and criminalizing undocumented folks. The Department of Homeland Security needs to terminate the use of privately-run immigration detention facilities and provide reports of the treatment of detainees. This comes to an issue that has to be approached through a city, state and federal government standpoint where federal assistance for immigrants is needed.

We need to reprioritize the budget in order to provide legal services to our immigrant communities. There needs to be universal coverage for COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccines, including through Emergency Medicaid, and raise awareness through multilingual public outreach campaigns to reach out to immigrant communities. We can only learn about the other services immigrant communities need by having them at the table and it is City Council's responsibility to partner with immigrant rights coalitions in the first conversation of potential legislation. Most importantly, lawful permanent residents in New York city should be able to vote in municipal elections. They are an integral part of the community and their vote needs to be included in the democratic process.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding civil rights and criminal justice and what would you do to address them?

As an NYPD officer, I've seen the long-lasting detriments to low-level arrests. I have submitted complaints about them and attempted with my best effort to prevent them from occurring in the first place. I will fight to push legislation that will require the NYPD to issue appearance tickets for minor non-criminal offenses instead of arresting individuals for those same offenses. Broken Windows is in practice a broken system. It has led to ruined lives for civilians who have committed minor non-criminal offenses by placing arrests on their records, cost families grief and stress, as well as cost New York City millions of dollars in wasted paperwork, processing, and work hours. It has also strained the relationship between police and civilians when we must be building community bonds.

Grievances about police corruption or neglect are sent to the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB). As a division of the NYPD, currently when these grievances are filed, the NYPD investigates itself internally. This process is not transparent and may lead to bias when investigating any occurrence reported to this division of the NYPD. Although the Civilian Complaint Review Board monitors and investigates complaints submitted by civilians against police officers, the Internal Affairs Bureau has the exclusive power to

investigate complaints submitted by police officers against other police officers. Numerous complaints concerning harassment, corruption, and other issues of importance are submitted by officers through these channels, yet true reform of these issues rarely occur due to the lack of enforcement and transparency in this bureau. We can pass as many bills to try for police transparency and accountability, but true change comes from transforming police departments' ecosystems that enable discriminatory practices from higher-level police officers.

Criminal justice reform means an all inclusive, comprehensive approach to divesting from the NYPD budget and investing funds into social services, immigration services and education. We need to reduce the amount of post-release supervision to one to two years except in the most serious of cases. This can create an environment where intense, front-loaded supervision and adequate resources help people on parole to transition into the community. Parole officers can have low enough caseloads to put in appropriate time and attention to their individual cases. The return to prison for lengthy periods should be eliminated for technical violations. Any graduated sanctioning system should be paired with a rewards/incentive program and parole can be envisioned as a transition instead of as punitive. The funds that can be saved from these changes can be put back into community corrections reform programs. The bail system has been overpopulating the jail population and there needs to be a complete implementation of ensuring anyone facing a misdemeanor or nonviolent felony charge(s) should be released without bail.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding public schools and education and what would you do to address them?

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a prevalent digital divide. Folks have been left behind while remote learning continues and there has not been active deliberation on how to combat economic disparities. I stand with legislation that mandates the City provides the technological tools for adequate remote learning, however we need to ensure folks have access to quality wifi and internet in their own homes. We need to offer training webinars to parents on how to support students in online learning as well. I am a strong advocate of the legislation that prohibits the use of screens for admission into community school district middle schools for the 2021-2022 school year and the following years. Also, we need to increase funding to Title 1 schools, hire more nurses and guidance counselors and provide Academic Intervention Vouchers (AIV) and Enrichment Program Vouchers (EPV) to low income families.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding housing and what would you do to address them?

There is clearly not enough affordable housing within all five boroughs. We need to utilize unused public spaces in the district and continue with plans to develop affordable housing and youth services at the former PS90 site in Flatbush. City Council needs to ensure affordable housing has safe living conditions as running water and heat has been one of the top issues in terms of housing in the district. COVID-19 has impacted District 40 in ways where evictions increased and moratoriums were placed. We need to keep those moratoriums in place until folks can safely work. In the meantime, community resources and mutual aid should be given. Everyday workers that are losing jobs through this pandemic should be protected with access to healthcare, safe working conditions with proper PPE, and appropriate amount of working hours (healthcare workers being forced to work more than 80 hours weekly). We need to take care of our seniors in District 40 and ensure nursing homes, adult homes, enriched housing and certain assisted living facilities have standby power that is sufficient to maintain.

We need to increase access to affordable housing by prioritizing the Department(s) of Education, Health & Mental Hygiene, Sanitation, Land use and Housing Preservation and Development. These departments serve as the foundation for sustainability throughout this public health crisis. I will consistently demand that housing rates are set by local Area Median Income (AMI) at a lower market rate. I commit to rejecting any proposals that do not allocate at least 50 percent of the units designated for the lowest AMI in the area. The development of affordable housing needs to be comprehensive in that it provides public spaces for families such as parks, grocery stores, and public schools within an appropriate distance.

What is your opinion on the development at 1620 Cortelyou road and on how the city should handle development and rezoning generally?

I oppose the development of 1620 Cortelyou road, its development will raise housing prices in Prospect Park neighborhoods and push low-income families out. As this development was proposed, Community Board 14 ensured to bring a list of conditions. Developers must be questioned in how they will increase affordability measures, reconfigure the building's setback, heavily consider the environmental impact, provide bike storage in residential and public spaces, and ensure this development is built with a "greener" infrastructure.

Contextual rezoning is crucial to preserving the cultural spaces within neighborhoods and not harming the residents both short and long term. We need racial disparity reports on land use applications, and in-depth discussions with the communities before the

ULURP process when it comes to policies regarding the revitalization of communities without large-scale displacement and destabilization.

What would you do to improve transit and street (pedestrian/bicycle/car) safety for New Yorkers in your district?

There needs to be increased attention to street conditions and the City needs to be heavily involved with Vision Zero. Not only Vision Zero, but supporting and collaborating with the Green Wave plan, the Streets Master Plan, and the Dangerous Vehicle Abatement Program. We can encourage residents to bike, through comprehensive public safety plans and protected bike lanes. We can simultaneously decrease traffic deaths and build a greener New York.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing New Yorkers and those in your district regarding the environment, including access to, maintenance, development and preservation of parks and other open spaces and what would you do to address them?

Low-income New Yorkers face a lack of access to parks, hospitals and overall, cultural spaces. Protecting and enhancing the Parks budget will secure more urban park rangers, PEP officers, and general maintenance jobs. I propose the government reprioritizes the budget, with more divestment from the NYPD and tax the rich to invest those funds into Cultural Affairs to keep the Department of Cultural Affairs budget to \$189 million, and gradually increase to \$212 million by 2025 as the economy and overall New York City recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

What other issues do you consider important and how will you address them?

City Council needs to be the voice of everyday workers and ensure the passed legislation to provide whistleblower protections is fully implemented. We need to protect black women as they have an astronomical rate of maternal mortality and increase access to data on maternal mortality and morbidity. LGBTQ+ health is crucial and there needs to be comprehensive plans to combat high rates of homelessness and poor mental health. COVID-19 has only exacerbated homelessness in vulnerable communities and we need proactive and reactive plans to enhance social service programs and public health.

For Fun (answers to these questions are not required)

If your district had a musical anthem, what would it be and why?

Jay-Z's Brooklyn We Go Hard because Brooklyn is my hometown and I have a lot of love for the history of this city.

What is your favorite restaurant in your district?
Aunts et Uncles!