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RACIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION (RJC) AND NYC ELECTED OFFICIALS CALL ON VOTERS TO #FLIPTHEBALLOT

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New York, NY—The Racial Justice Commission (RJC), in partnership with city elected officials—including NYC Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and NYC Comptroller Brad Lander—yesterday gathered on the steps of City Hall to launch the #FlipTheBallot voter awareness effort to inform voters about the RJC ballot initiatives up for a vote on the back of the ballot this cycle. With exactly one month left until Election Day, RJC has partnered with elected officials across the city to encourage voters to make their voices heard.

“Every question and every ballot measure is an opportunity to decide the future of our city,” said RJC Commissioner **Jennifer Jones Austin**. “Those are opportunities we can’t waste—and the important initiatives on this year’s ballot are no different. The Racial Justice Commission is proud to work alongside our partners to raise awareness of the importance of voting in this upcoming election.”

“This November, New Yorkers will have the opportunity to consider new proposals to the city charter that could incorporate the broadest structural racial equity laws in the country. This administration is investing dollars to spread the word about the ballot measures voters will see at the polls,” said New York City Mayor **Eric Adams**. “I implore everyone to visit the RJC’s website, educate themselves about each proposal, and learn how these ballots could impact them. This time is now New York City.”

“The future of New York will be determined by its voters, and this year’s ballot initiatives are the latest example of the power our votes hold,” said NYC Comptroller **Brad Lander**. “I encourage every voter to #FlipTheBallot and vote on the important racial justice initiatives intended to ensure a more equitable city; with a civically-engaged electorate, we can build a better New York for generations to come.”

“Together, we have the chance to make our voices heard and take control of our city’s destiny,” said NYC Public Advocate **Jumaane Williams**. “Every election shows us that a better New York is possible—and our votes make that a reality. So when you go out, flip your ballots and make your voices heard on the issues up for a vote this year.”

“As New Yorkers head to the polls for the General Election leading into November 8, it is imperative to understand that there are three important ballot questions up for consideration,” said Speaker of the NYC Council **Adrienne Adams**. “Developed by the NYC Racial Justice Commission (RJC), the ballot proposals would change our city’s constitution, known as the City Charter to add a statement of values on equity to its

preamble, establish a racial equity office and plan, and create a true cost-of-living measure for New York City. I thank RJC Chair Jennifer Jones Austin and all of the partners in this effort to inform voters to #FlipTheBallot and vote on these ballot initiatives."

"New York City voters have an historic opportunity to vote on ballot measures intended to advance racial equity in our city," said Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives **Sheena Wright**. "It is crucial that New Yorkers learn more about these measures and the impact their vote will have. I encourage all New York City voters to come out this November and flip over their ballots to ensure that their voices are heard."

"Voters have the power to determine the course of New York," said Deputy Speaker of the NYC Council **Diana Ayala**. "I encourage every voter to #FlipTheBallot, learn about what's at stake for our city, and make their voices heard."

"New Yorkers have an unprecedented opportunity to address racial justice at the ballot this year. I commend the Racial Justice Commission for listening to New Yorkers and advancing proposals that speak to the heart of what government values and how it operates," said **Sideya Sherman**, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Equity. "I encourage every New Yorker to 'flip the ballot' and learn more about the proposals so you can make an informed decision at the polls."

NYC's Racial Justice Commission (RJC) is a charter revision commission established in 2021, tasked with examining structural racism within NYC. The Commission examined the City Charter to identify structural barriers facing all People of Color, and developed ballot proposals aimed at reducing barriers and promoting racial equity. In November 2022, NYC voters will have the opportunity to vote "Yes" or "No" on these proposals.

For upcoming events and more information, the public can visit <https://racialjustice.cityofnewyork>.

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