



Racial Justice Commission Template Newsletter Article for Partners

Note from the RJC: If you would like to inform your community about the ballot measures, feel free to use or modify the language below for your newsletters. Translated version will also be available on our website soon.

~

Did you know there are three questions about racial justice on the back of the ballot this November for you to vote on? Our members should know that the NYC [Racial Justice Commission](#) has proposed three changes to the New York City Charter – our city’s constitution. Each proposal is intended to put equity at the heart of City government. We want you learn about these measures so you can make a decision about the City’s future this November.

Questions to look for on the back of your ballot:

- **Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government:** This preamble would embed a vision of a “just and equitable city” for all New Yorkers in the foundation of the City’s laws and require City officials to be guided by those values in carrying out their governmental functions. It would also acknowledge past harms and the need to remedy them.
- **Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission:** This would create a Mayoral Office that must work with every City agency to create Racial Equity Plans and report data measuring disparities. It would also create an independent Commission to bring community perspectives and accountability into the process.
- **Measure the True Cost of Living:** This would require the City government to track and report on the actual cost in New York City of meeting our essential needs, including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other necessary costs. The True Cost of Living would be a new measurement focused not on poverty, but on how much it actually costs New Yorkers to live and thrive in the City with dignity.

This is the first time ever that New Yorkers will have an opportunity to vote directly on racial justice in their laws, and the first time in the nation that a Charter Commission has proposed these kinds of changes.

We are committed to educating fellow New Yorkers about these important measures. While the Racial Justice Commission is making special effort in different languages to reach communities that may not typically vote on ballot measures, you can help today by telling your neighbors, friends, and family who may not know about these questions.

You have the power to decide the future of our city. Early voting begins October 29th and election day is November 8th. To learn more about these ballot questions, visit the Racial Justice Commission website at nyc.gov/racialjustice. Visit the ‘Take Action page here’ if you are interested in participating.