

2013

1st Debate

Democratic

Primary

Election

Public Advocate



New York City Campaign Finance Board

First Debate Democratic Primary Election Public Advocate

Thursday, August 15, 2013 | 7:00 PM

Bam Fisher

321 Ashland Place

Brooklyn, NY 11217

The **New York City Campaign Finance Board** is a nonpartisan, independent city agency that enhances the role of New York City residents in elections. The CFB's mission is to increase voter participation and awareness, provide campaign finance information to the public, enable more citizens to run for office, strengthen the role of small contributors, and reduce the potential for actual or perceived corruption.

The CFB is charged with administering the mandatory **Debate Program**, in concert with various civic and media partners who sponsor the debates. It is a cornerstone of the CFB's voter education efforts and provides New Yorkers with an opportunity to compare candidates side by side as they discuss the important issues facing the city. The debates help ensure New Yorkers are well-informed as they head to the polls to cast their vote.

Candidates for citywide office who participate in the Campaign Finance Program and meet certain debate criteria must participate in debates prior to an election in which he or she is on the ballot. Candidates who opt out of the Campaign Finance Program may also be invited to join the debates at the discretion of the CFB and sponsoring organizations, provided the candidates meet the same criteria.



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NYCCFB

Office of **Public Advocate**

As the city's "ombudsman," or go-between, the job of the **PUBLIC ADVOCATE** includes monitoring the operation of the public information and service complaint programs of city agencies, and investigating, and trying to resolve complaints about many city services. In the mayor's absence, the public advocate acts as the mayor; in the case of a vacancy, the public advocate acts as mayor until a special election is held. The public advocate earns an annual salary of \$165,000.

2013 NYC Voter Guide

- › Look out for your print Guide in the mail.
- › Watch candidate statements in the Video Voter Guide on NYCgov channel.
- › Go to www.nycvotes.org on your smartphone for information right at your fingertips.
- › Visit www.nycfb.info/nycvotes to learn more!

Candidates



Catherine Guerriero

As a mother, university professor, small business owner and athlete, Cathy Guerriero knows and loves New York, and will fight to keep our city great. As Public Advocate, she will work to keep New York a safe and affordable city where all New Yorkers from each of our five boroughs are treated with dignity and respect, where all people have an equal voice

in our great city's future and where all children have access to quality education and resources they need to succeed in life.

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Letitia James

Council Member Letitia “Tish” James was born and raised in Brooklyn. After graduating from Howard University, James began her career in public service, starting as a public defender in the Legal Aid Society. She later served as an Assistant Attorney General for New York State and was elected to the City Council in 2003 where she has been an outspoken advocate

for social and economic justice. James has successfully preserved after-school programs, childcare slots, and affordable housing. She'll bring the same passion to the Public Advocate's Office.

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(profiles continued on the next page)

Candidates



Reshma M. Saujani

Reshma Saujani is a progressive Democrat running to create opportunities for all New Yorkers and new pathways to the American Dream. A daughter of immigrant refugees, Reshma knows that City Hall and Albany have failed us. She is running to change that. Reshma is a proven fighter — especially for immigrants, women, children, and families. She will use her record of finding solutions to expand our middle class, strengthen our schools, and reform the harmful Stop and Frisk policy. Reshma will put results above words, and make our city a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

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Daniel L. Squadron

Daniel Squadron is a lifelong New Yorker who lives with his wife and their son in Brooklyn. First elected to the State Senate in 2008, Daniel unseated a 30-year incumbent in a grassroots campaign for change and has gotten results as a progressive reformer.

Daniel has a proven track record of delivering results for everyday New Yorkers — fighting corruption in Albany, writing landmark new gun laws, and advocating for affordable housing, parks, and public transportation. He has a plan to make the Public Advocate’s office more effective for children, seniors, and regular families who need a voice in City Hall.

Reprinted as supplied by the candidate.

(profiles continued on the next page)

Candidates



Sidique A. Wai

Sidique Wai has served New York City for over twenty years, collaborating with leaders in city and state governments, from former City Council President Andrew Stein, to former Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden. He is now a special adviser to the police commissioner, Raymond Kelly, authoring a number of key initiatives within the department.

Previously he was instrumental in brokering a landmark agreement between SUNY medical center and the immediate vendor community and successfully negotiated the renovation of Kings County Hospital, resulting in the construction of two health clinics. Sidique's three-point principle is accountability, collaboration and transparency (act).

Reprinted as supplied by the candidate.

Moderator

Errol Louis joined NY1 in November 2010 as political anchor and host of “Inside City Hall,” the city’s premiere news program covering New York politics and government. He regularly interviews top newsmakers, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Governor Andrew Cuomo and former governors David Paterson and George Pataki, as well as authors and filmmakers including Ken Burns, Robert Caro, Ralph Nader and Howard Dean.

Panelists

Juan Manuel Benitez is the host and executive producer of *Pura Política*, a Spanish-language political talk-show that runs weekly on NY1 Noticias. He has spent the last decade covering politics from New York and teaching journalism to graduate students at CUNY and Columbia University.

Courtney Gross joined NY1's political team in June 2011. In her time with NY1, Gross has filed reports on the city's infrastructure following Hurricane Irene, the fight over same-sex marriage, and the rise in city poverty rates despite the efforts of the Bloomberg administration. Gross was previously the city government editor at *Gotham Gazette*, where for four years she focused her reporting on the City Council and the Bloomberg administration. In 2009, she received the award for "Best Web Exclusive Content" from the New York Press Club, for her work with the *Gotham Gazette* staff.

Brian Lehrer is host of *The Brian Lehrer Show*, WNYC Radio's Peabody Award-winning daily call-in program, that has served as New York City's public square for almost 25 years. The show covers politics and life, locally and globally, and engages listeners on-air and online. Lehrer has been hailed by *The New York Times* as a "master interviewer," while *Time* magazine called the program "New York City's most thoughtful and informative talk show." The *Brian Lehrer Show* airs weekdays from 10am-noon on WNYC 93.9 FM, AM 820 and wnyc.org.

Our Debate Sponsors



NY1 News is the city's only 24-hour local TV news channel. Since our launch in 1992, one of our primary missions has been to educate New Yorkers about local politics and government. And while others have cut back on political coverage, NY1 has done the opposite. No other TV station devotes as much time and resources to the subject. No other TV station has a team of reporters assigned to City Hall and the state capital. And no other TV station has a nightly public affairs program dedicated exclusively to local politics and government.



NY1 Noticias, now in its 10th year, has a similar mission. Since 2003, the city's only 24-hour Spanish-language news channel has provided unsurpassed Spanish-language coverage of New York politics and government, with a special focus on Latino issues. No other Spanish-language station devotes as much time and resources to the subject. And no other Spanish-language station has a weekly public affairs program, Pura Política, dedicated to local politics and government.



WNYC Radio is the nation's most listened-to public radio station, comprising WNYC AM 820, WNYC FM 93.9, and wnyc.org. Through stellar news, public affairs and cultural programming, WNYC extends New York City's cultural riches to the entire country, while bringing the world home by airing the best national offerings from affiliate networks NPR, Public Radio International American Public Media, and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC).



The Citizens Committee for New York City's mission is to help New Yorkers — especially those in low-income communities — come together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Our Debate Sponsors



Citizens Union of the City of New York is a nonpartisan good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. Citizens Union serves as a civic watchdog, combating corruption and fighting for political reform. The organization works to ensure fair and open elections, honest and efficient government, and a civically-engaged public. Its members are New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds and political beliefs who are connected to their communities and united in their commitment to put the city's long-term interest ahead of all special interests.



Gothamist is the first site in the Gothamist LLC network of blogs and is the most popular local blog in New York. It has been described by *The New*

York Times as a “marvelous, not-to-be-missed Web site” that “reflects everything worth knowing about this city.”



Hispanic Federation was created to empower and advance the Hispanic community. Hispanic Federation provides grants to a broad network of Latino non-profit agencies serving the most vulnerable members of the

Hispanic community and advocates nationally with respect to the vital issues of education, health, immigration, economic empowerment, civic engagement and the environment.



Transportation Alternatives' mission is to reclaim New York City's streets from the automobile, and to advocate for bicycling, walking

and public transit as the best transportation alternatives. Founded in 1973, our 100,000 active supporters throughout the five boroughs are committed to reclaiming New York City's streets for people.

Debate Scorecard

Rank each candidate's debate performance using this handy scorecard!
1 (worst) to 5 (best)

	Catherine Guerriero	Letitia James	Reshma M. Saujani	Daniel L. Squadron	Sidique A. Wai
Directly answers the question					
Makes arguments clearly					
Defends claims with evidence					
Connects emotionally					
Displays confidence					
Overall impression					
TOTAL					



New York City Campaign Finance Board

2013 Debate Program Schedule

Citywide Offices | Primary Elections

MAYOR | DEMOCRATIC

Wednesday, August 21, 7PM
TV: NY1 (English),
NY1 Noticias (Spanish), C-SPAN
Radio: WNYC

Tuesday, September 3, 7PM
TV: NBC 4 New York (English),
Telemundo Nueva York (Spanish)
Radio: WOR Radio

PUBLIC ADVOCATE | DEMOCRATIC

Thursday, August 15, 7PM
TV: NY1 (English), NY1 Noticias (Spanish)
Radio: WNYC

Sunday, August 25, 11:30AM
TV: NBC 4 New York (English),
Telemundo Nueva York (Spanish)
Radio: WOR Radio

MAYORAL RUNOFF | DEMOCRATIC

Monday, September 23, 7PM
TV: CBS 2 News (English),
WLNY-TV 10/55 (Spanish)
Radio: 1010 WINS, WCBS Newsradio 880

Debate will be cancelled if there is only one candidate who meets the criteria.

MAYOR | REPUBLICAN

Wednesday, August 28, 7PM
TV: CBS 2 News (English),
WLNY-TV 10/55 (Spanish)
Radio: 1010 WINS, WCBS Newsradio 880

Sunday, September 8, 11:30AM
TV: NBC 4 New York (English),
Telemundo Nueva York (Spanish)
Radio: WOR Radio

COMPTROLLER | DEMOCRATIC

Monday, August 12, 7PM
TV: NY1 (English), NY1 Noticias (Spanish)
Radio: WNYC

Thursday August 22, 7PM
TV: CBS 2 News (English),
WLNY-TV 10/55 (Spanish)
Radio: WCBS Newsradio 880

All debates listed will be broadcast live and streamed live on each sponsor group's website. Dates and times are subject to change.

For more information, visit www.nyccfb.info/debates.

Our Debate Sponsors



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

