

Back

David Gold

I'm a life-long New Yorker raised on the Upper West Side, with deep and rich UWS connections. My wife grew up six blocks from me, and we've raised our two sons here. The older attended NYC public schools and is now in college. The younger is a junior at a NYC public high school downtown. Their grandparents all still live in the neighborhood and are good friends.

I'm a lawyer and a PhD, and run Democratism, a not-for-profit organization seeking to make our federal election system more democratic. I've been active in progressive and Democratic politics for more than 30 years. During college I marched on Washington for a woman's right to choose and was a student leader in the fight to free Soviet Jews. I spent law school summers at the US Attorney's Office, where we sued a major Staten Island polluter, and at the Brennan Center for Justice, where we sued Florida for suppressing Black voters. After law school, I was a law clerk for one of the leading liberal lights on the federal judiciary and then practiced as a litigator, exclusively suing powerful interests for rotten things they did to ordinary people. I later founded a software company and led a community arts and education organization. I've done voter protection work on presidential and congressional campaigns, including training other lawyers and traveling to Florida, Pennsylvania, and upstate NY for crucial contests. My degrees are from Brown, the University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia.

Now the UWS and New York are at a critical juncture, a moment of suffering and anxiety, but also one of rare opportunity. Before the pandemic, the City had faced two major crises in my lifetime: near bankruptcy in 1975 and terrorist attack in 2001. In both cases, we survived. In both cases, though, we also made critical mistakes that still torment us today. Our extremes of economic inequality, racial segregation, and environmental degradation, the inadequacies of our housing, schooling, and transit, even our unpreparedness for a public health emergency, are all to a substantial degree rooted in the choices we made, or failed to make, when we had the chance.

That's why I'm running. More so even than in 1975 or 2001, we have the chance to shape our future through the assertion of our best values. I've spent my adult life investigating the ways that people find meaning in life and how law and politics can make us better off, materially and morally. During the past six years, my focus has been on two [structural changes](#) that would improve the City and the world by improving our democracy. Both are based in local politics.

One would make NYC the leader in an effort to make our federal election system fundamentally democratic. The way we elect the president and Congress is anti-city and white-supremacist, and is the world's greatest single obstacle to averting environmental catastrophe—among other dire traits. Only cities can change it, and now is the time for NYC to take the lead.

The other would achieve better, more democratic resource allocation. It would allow us to address a wide range of intractable problems, from the death of local businesses and

NYC's housing crisis to income inequality and global climate change.

While I fight for these structural changes, I will fight for our neighborhood and our values through legislation and holding City officials accountable. I'll fight for affordable housing, anti-racist law enforcement, environmental sustainability, high-quality and desegregated schools, consistent and accessible public transit, aid to local businesses, a resurgence in the arts, and justice and dignity for all New Yorkers. I would be thrilled to receive Three Parks' endorsement.

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