

## Ben Kallos

Manhattan Borough President candidate and current City Council Member Ben Kallos was praised by the [New York Times](#) for his [fresh ideas](#) and elected in 2013 to represent the community he grew up in with his mother, and his grandparents who fled anti-Semitism in Europe. Ben lives (and for the past nine months also works) in a one bedroom rental apartment with his wife and daughter.

Ever since his first campaign, Ben has refused campaign contributions from Real Estate, lobbyists and corporations, and has fought alongside New Yorkers against powerful interests ever since. He authored the new Full Public Matching system that has candidates at every level running on grassroots donations. He also authored the law to ban lulus and outside income for City Council members, some of whom had jobs in real estate.

Ben is a leading advocate for education, having advocated for universal childcare, school lunch, and after school. In his district he opened 900 pre-k seats and secured funding for 824 K–8 seatss to relieve school overcrowding. He wrote the law to put hundreds of thousands of

affordable units back on the market, as Planning Chair oversaw the construction and preservation of 7,000 affordable units citywide, as well as 1,000 units in his own district. As the author of the Climate Emergency resolution that passed the City Council making New York the largest city on the planet to do so, he has secured \$275 million to rebuild resilient waterfront parks. Ben has improved commutes in the neighborhood with bike share, select bus, and ferry service, not to mention the opening of the Second Avenue Subway. He even put a new large trash can on every corner to clean up the neighborhood. During the Covid-19 crisis, he helped open 550 emergency hospital beds in his district, advocated for outdoor dining, won free childcare and full-time nurses in every school, proposed desegregating remote learning, and exposed billions in potential waste in the City's contracts budget.

Ben has fought to Defund the NYPD and voted against the City's budget that did not go far enough in doing so, while leaving essential services in overpoliced communities underfunded.

Like most New Yorkers, Ben doesn't own a car, and he wants to transform Manhattan's streets by getting miles of scaffolding down and redesigning

our streets around activating our public spaces.

Ben's favorite part of his job is meeting other New Yorkers including at his monthly First Friday open office hours where he partners with them for a better borough.