

Refresher: The Role of City Council Members and Democratic District Leaders

The **City Council** is New York City's legislative body. There are 51 elected members, one from each Council district. The Council is separate from the Mayor's administration but an equal partner in how our City is run.

The Council:

- introduces and votes on legislation having to do with all aspects of City life.
- negotiates the City's budget with the Mayor and has sole responsibility for approving its adoption.
- monitors City agencies such as the Department of Education and the NYPD to make sure they are effectively serving New Yorkers.
- reviews land use and make decisions about the growth and development of our city.

The Mayor may veto legislation

that the Council has approved, but the Council can respond with a two-thirds or more vote enacting a law over the objection of the Mayor to turn a bill into a law.

The District Leader:

- is an unpaid volunteer elected official who represents the party members in his/her district to the party's apparatus
- sits on the Executive Committee of the County Democratic Committee
- recruits poll workers and election inspectors for the primary and general elections
- listens to the residents of the district to learn what issues are affecting their quality of life
- works with the district's city, state, and federal elected officials to insure that the voices of the community are heard
- provides support to elect good candidates to public office in the district
- is an information resource for the district's voters in numerous ways including poll site locations, election results

and information about
candidates

- is responsible for promoting
Democratic turnout in general
elections