

Michael Blake

Michael Alexander Blake is a proud native of The Bronx, New York and is the youngest son of Jamaican immigrants. His mother is a retired 40 year manufacturer and raised four boys, including a retired Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army and his late Father was an 1199 SEIU maintenance supervisor at St. Barnabas Hospital in The Bronx.

Michael Blake is the Founder & CEO of Atlas Strategy Group, Inc. which focuses on Economic Empowerment through increasing Access to Capital, Contracting and Opportunities to Minority, Women and Small Businesses along with creating metrics based programs for Social Justice and Civic Engagement for Communities of Color. Blake has worked with the Washington Football Team, Eccalon, Operation Hope focusing on Financial Literacy for Individuals and Businesses and Green For All as its National Policy Director.

Michael is also the Founder & CEO of the KAIROS DEMOCRACY PROJECT, a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) social welfare organization committed to mobilizing Communities of Color and Young Americans on the practical daily benefits of a strong Democracy.

Michael is the President of Next Level Sports and Entertainment – the only Black owned national TV Sports network in our country’s history. Viewed in 21 million U.S. households and more than 100 million global households and with programming ranging from HBCU-Know to the What’sNXT studio show, Blake is leading a team that is disrupting the Sports, Media and Technology industries. Blake is also the host of the Award-Winning “Sports and Society” segment where the intersectionality of sports and everyday conversations peek into the role of sports in our lives.

Michael served as a Founding Visiting Fellow at Monroe College’s Institute of Social Justice, Government and Civic Engagement teaching more than 140 students twice a week about Civics and public policy. Blake is also leading the My Brother’s Keeper efforts for Monroe College.

Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller

Brad Lander is a big-hearted, tough-minded citywide leader who's devoted his life to fighting for New York City — and has a record of results to prove it.

A bold government reformer, innovator, husband, and dad, Brad works every day to make our city safer, our neighborhoods more livable and affordable, our government more effective, and our future more sustainable. The [New York Times](#) said Brad is “among the hardest-working and most effective public servants in the city,” and praised his “prudence and competence.”

In the 1990s and 2000s, Brad led two not-for-profit, affordable housing and community development groups, the Fifth Avenue Committee and the Pratt Center for Community Development, where he built hundreds of units of affordable housing and created job training programs that have helped thousands of New Yorkers find employment. At the Pratt Center, Brad led successful campaigns to demand affordable housing through rezoning and tax incentive programs.

As a Council Member, Lander took risks to make powerful change happen. He led the community planning effort to shape and pass the Gowanus Rezoning, generating over 8,000 units of new housing, over 3,000 of them affordable to low-income and working-class families, with investments in open space, arts, environmental remediation, stormwater protection, and NYCHA — one of the few large-scale rezonings to win overwhelming support from its community board. And Lander helped to initiate and shepherd the [successful effort to desegregate the middle schools of Brooklyn's District 15](#).

As Comptroller, Brad is New York City's chief financial officer and chief accountability officer, managing a team of roughly 700 professionals. He has consistently held the Adams Administration accountable, uncovered waste and abuse, and saved hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars. Lander sounded the alarm on Adams' rampant use of emergency procurement and forced the Administration to cancel its \$432 million no-bid contract with the unqualified vendor DocGo. He revealed gross deficiencies in the Administration's failing efforts to get

homeless people off the street and revealed its inadequate preparedness for the new normal of extreme weather and storms. His audit of NYC Ferry revealed \$224 million in hidden expenditures and led to a restructuring of the service.

Brad's investigations, budget analyses, and policy reports shed light on the effects of the Mayor's proposed budget cuts to libraries and CUNY, detailed the Adams Administration's poor implementation of the misguided 60-day shelter limit for asylum-seekers, and pointed the path forward to building capital projects on-time and on-budget and improving emergency management as we enter the era of the climate crisis.

Under Brad's stewardship, New York City's public pension funds have earned strong returns and grown to record levels, with a broad and diversified investment approach. Lander has led the nation in "responsible investing," leading shareholder advocacy to strengthen workers' rights at Starbucks and Amazon, and adopting the boldest "net zero" plan of any pension fund in the US. Lander's innovative investment in purchasing the loan portfolio of the defaulted Signature Bank is protecting nearly 35,000 rent-stabilized housing units in New York City while yielding high returns for pensioners. His initiative to set "Responsible Property Management Standards" for real estate investment funds is protecting tenants across the country.

Brad has used every tool in the Comptroller's toolbox to make NYC a more thriving, equitable, and sustainable city. He's returned millions of dollars in stolen wages to workers by enforcing the prevailing wage. And he helped ensure that NYC retirees will have adequate health care and financial security by rejecting the plan to force them into inferior Medicare Advantage plans.

Prior to being elected Comptroller in 2021, Brad was a [bold and creative leader](#) in the City Council, where his numerous victories include concrete gains to expand workers' rights, strengthen tenant protections, invest in public schools, and strengthen our democracy. Brad passed the first laws in the country to guarantee a living wage for Uber and Lyft drivers and *deliveristas*, and to [shield fast-food and retail workers](#) from abusive scheduling, and [protect freelancers](#). He authored the [Independent Expenditure Disclosure Act](#), giving NYC the most

aggressive SuperPAC disclosure requirements in the country, and brought [participatory budgeting](#) to NYC. He led the campaign that secured air-conditioning in all NYC school classrooms, after working with students on a policy report showing that 25 percent of classrooms did not have A/C, making it #TooHotToLearn for students and teachers.

Brad lives with his wife, Meg Barnette, in Brooklyn where they raised two children, Marek and Rosa, both of whom graduated from NYC public schools. He loves Prospect Park, CUNY graduations, and NYC street food, tries to stay in shape by boxing and running to work across the Brooklyn Bridge, and is a proud season ticket holder for the WNBA champions the New York Liberty.

Zellnor Myrie, NYS Senator

State Senator [Zellnor Myrie](#) has emerged as one of New York's most respected legislators and a fierce champion on issues ranging from gun safety and criminal justice to voting rights and abortion rights to health care and affordable housing. From his first day in office he has been relentlessly focused on making New York more affordable and livable for all of us who call it home.

Elected in 2018 from Central Brooklyn, Myrie was part of the crusading class of Democrats who finally ended decades of Republican control in the State Capitol. In his first six months in office, he helped pass the Reproductive Health Act to guarantee abortion rights in New York, **groundbreaking climate change legislation**, the Child Victims Act and **tougher gun control laws**, and the strongest pro-tenant rent laws in a generation. *The New York Times* hailed that extraordinary first session as a "heartening display of public service."

Over the past five years, Senator Myrie has led the fight to bring the State's antiquated voting laws into the 21st century. As Chair of the Senate's Elections Committee, he pushed to introduce early voting to New York, closed the LLC loophole that gave the rich a backdoor path to evade contribution limits, and **authored the John R. Lewis New York Voting Rights Act**, which the NAACP and Brennan Center both praised as the strongest voting rights law in the nation.

A powerful advocate for affordable housing, Senator Myrie has championed key efforts to protect both tenants and homeowners—passing strong new rent laws to help vulnerable tenants, creating new paths to homeownership, and crafting legislation to stop deed theft. Senator Myrie has led vital efforts to enhance public safety while ensuring a fairer criminal justice system. He cracked down on unscrupulous gun dealers and manufacturers by writing the nation's first state-level gun industry liability law to keep dangerous weapons out of our neighborhoods. And working with business leaders and criminal justice reform advocates, Myrie wrote and fought to pass **the Clean Slate Act**, which gives more individuals who have paid their debt to society a chance to restart their lives and find good jobs.

Senator Myrie continues to champion policies that help working families — like his advocacy for **universal afterschool programs** — and to defend underserved, vulnerable New Yorkers, including his leadership in fighting the closure of SUNY Downstate hospital. And Myrie has been a strong advocate for LGBTQIA equality and the rights of immigrants.

Prior to his election to the State Senate, Myrie served as an associate at Davis, Polk & Wardwell where he clocked over 600 hours of pro bono legal work in a single year. Before that, he worked as a Legislative Director in the New York City Council, where he played a key role in drafting the Tenants' Bill of Rights. Myrie was **born and raised in Central Brooklyn** and is a product of New York City public schools. Raised by a mother who continues to inspire him, his parents came to New York from Costa Rica over 40 years ago drawn by the promise and opportunity the city has always offered hardworking immigrants. Senator Myrie is a graduate of Fordham University and Cornell Law School. He and his wife, former Assemblymember Diana Richardson, live in Central Brooklyn.

Jessica Ramos, NYS Senator

Jessica Ramos is a dedicated public servant, a fierce advocate for working families, and a proud daughter of Colombian immigrants. Growing up in Astoria, she learned the values of hard work, community, and resilience from her parents, who faced every challenge with grit and determination.

As State Senator, Jessica has never shied away from a fight. She raised the minimum wage, led the charge to outlaw exploitative work practices, and secured over \$2 billion in relief for excluded workers during the pandemic. Jessica knows what it means to step up in times of crisis, and she's committed to making New York City a place where everyone can build a better life.

Scott Stringer, Former NYC Comptroller

Scott M. Stringer has spent his public service career as New York City Comptroller, Manhattan Borough President, and Assembly Member fighting for New York's middle class, strengthening the City's fiscal health and championing good government.

As Comptroller, Stringer exposed waste and mismanagement, and oversaw the City's \$240 billion pension fund as it grew to record levels. Stringer also led the successful effort to divest New York from an estimated \$4 billion in investments from fossil fuel companies.

A catalyst for reform, Stringer forced corporations across America to diversify their boardrooms, and appointed the City's first-ever Chief Diversity Officer to increase participation of minority and women-owned businesses seeking to do business with the City.

Stringer is committed to a thriving City that keeps its contract with every New Yorker—for public safety, housing, education, justice, and creating economic opportunity. As he explores a campaign for Mayor in 2025 to challenge current Mayor Eric Adams, Scott will be meeting with New Yorkers from every section of our City, and he invites you to join that conversation.