



**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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## **Doctors Council SEIU Endorses Eric Adams for Mayor, Jumaane Williams for Public Advocate & Corey Johnson for Comptroller**

*Doctors' Union Also Shares Endorsements for Borough Presidents and City Council*

**(New York– May 26, 2021)** Doctors Council SEIU, which represents doctors throughout New York City, including in the public hospitals system, NYC Health + Hospitals, mayoral agencies such as the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Education, as well as in correctional facilities such as Rikers Island, has today announced its endorsements for the upcoming June 2021 primaries for New York City.

Frank Proscia, M.D., President of Doctors Council SEIU, issued the following statement regarding the choices of endorsements this primary season:

“We believe in quality, affordable, and safe health care as a basic human right and social good, achieved and accessible by all, regardless of insurance, economic status, ability to pay, race, ethnicity, citizenship or residency status, language spoken, or diagnosis.

Our members know the importance of doctors’ having a voice in politics, policy and legislation, especially with elected leaders. Endorsements are part of this vital work for our members, those we care for and the communities we serve.

This year, we collectively feel that our endorsements are especially important - we have seen the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year and how this has impacted the patients we care for and the communities we serve. Our dedicated members put their lives on the line during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to do so, often leaving their families behind to care for the most vulnerable and sick patients and to manage and respond to this disease. Doctors are

essential workers who chronically worked short-staffed and burned out on the frontlines in the hardest hit areas of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We made our endorsements following months of reviewing received candidate questionnaires and interviews. We thank all the candidates who participated as well as all our members who were involved. For Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough Presidents and City Council candidates, we want to help elect and work with those who value those who make New York City run every day such as our doctors and members.

As doctors who work on the frontlines treating all New Yorkers every day, we are looking for a Mayor and elected officials that are willing to listen to all voices and input. It is important to us as doctors that our patients receive quality health care when they are in front of us. It is also important that the inequities and social determinants of care that impact so many communities in New York are addressed.

Our frontline doctors witnessed the impact in our healthcare system, with public and safety net facilities hit the hardest while working to save as many New Yorkers as possible as they were underfunded and understaffed. We need elected leaders to fund our public services and safety net and listen to frontline workers.

Our endorsements reflect our advocacy for our members, those we care for and the communities we serve.”

**As New York's primary elections are scheduled to take place June 22, 2021, with early voting beginning on June 12 through June 20, Doctors Council SEIU proudly issues the following endorsements:**

**Mayor-** Eric Adams      **Public Advocate-** Jumaane Williams      **Comptroller-** Corey Johnson

*Accompanying quotes from endorsement:*

***Mayoral Candidate Eric Adams:*** “I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Doctors Council SEIU and its diverse membership of frontline workers who look out for patients’ rights as they provide them the quality health care they deserve. As mayor I will continue my fight to improve the health of all New Yorkers regardless of zip code or income—and I look forward to working with the Doctors Council SEIU to deliver that better future for our city together.”

***Comptroller Candidate Corey Johnson:*** “During an unprecedented public health crisis, the women and men of Doctors Council SEIU were on the front lines fighting for their patients. They did heroic, essential work and New Yorkers will be forever grateful. Now, as New York City moves from crisis to recovery, our public hospital system needs help. I'm committed to being a Comptroller who fights for working people, public employees, and essential public services like H+H. That's why I'm so honored to have the support of Doctors Council SEIU in this campaign.”

## **Borough Presidents:**

**Bronx-** Vanessa Gibson      **Brooklyn-** Antonio Reynoso      **Manhattan-** Mark Levine  
**Queens-** Donovan Richards      **Staten Island-** No Endorsement

### *Accompanying quotes from endorsement:*

***Bronx Borough President Candidate Vanessa Gibson:*** “Vanessa Gibson’s work to improve public health and minimize inequality makes her a perfect fit to be Bronx Borough President – especially following the COVID-19 crisis. Vanessa earned our endorsement because she is committed not only to shrinking disparities in healthcare, but to supporting frontline workers like us. As Borough President, Vanessa will ensure Bronxites have an easier time accessing more affordable care, have the tools and options to make healthier choices, and continue to fight inequality in healthcare. All the while supporting the healthcare providers who work so hard to keep us healthy and safe.”

***Brooklyn Borough President Candidate Antonio Reynoso:*** “I’m honored to receive the endorsement of Doctors Council. Doctors Council’s work to ensure that all communities -- especially low-income, medically underserved, immigrant, and communities of color -- have equal access to quality, timely care is more important now than ever. As Borough President, I look forward to working with Doctors Council members to address the disparities in health care access laid bare by the COVID pandemic.”

***Manhattan Borough President Candidate Mark Levine:*** “Doctors and healthcare workers in our public health system are the heroes of our city and we owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. I’m so grateful to be endorsed by the Doctors Council. As Borough President, I will fight to reverse years of underinvestment in our public healthcare system, and continue to support our hospitals, doctors, healthcare professionals, and patients throughout Manhattan and our city.”

## **City Council (by District):**

**1-** Jenny Low      **2-** Carlina Rivera      **3-** Erik Bottcher      **4-** Keith Powers  
**5-** Julie Menin      **6-** Gale Brewer      **7-** Shaun Abreu      **8-** Diana Ayala  
**10-** Carmen De La Rosa      **11-** Eric Dinowitz      **12-** Kevin Riley      **13-** Marjorie Velazquez  
**14-** Pierina Sanchez      **15-** Ischia Bravo      **16-** Althea Stevens      **18-** Amanda Farias  
**19-** Austin Shafran      **20-** Sandra Ung      **21-** Francisco Moya      **22-** Tiffany Caban  
**23-** Linda Lee      **24-** James Gennaro      **25-** Shekar Krishnan      **26-** Amit Bagga  
**27-** Nantasha Williams      **28-** Adrienne Adams      **29-** Lynn Schulman      **31-** Selvena Brooks-Powers  
**33-** Lincoln Restler      **34-** Jennifer Gutiérrez      **35-** Crystal Hudson      **36-** Henry Butler

37- Sandy Nurse      38- Alexa Avilés      39- Briget Rein      40- Josue Pierre  
41- Alicka Ampry-Samuel 42- Charles Barron 43- Justin Brannan 45- Farah Louis  
46- Mercedes Narcisse 47- Ari Kagan      48- Steven Saperstein 49- Amoy Barnes  
50- Sal Albanese

*Accompanying quotes from endorsement:*

**Erik Bottcher (3<sup>rd</sup> District):** “I’m honored to receive the endorsement of our healthcare heroes. During this crisis, they are putting their lives on the line - and saving lives - and we owe them the highest standards in quality and working conditions possible. As a member of the City Council I will partner with the Doctors Council SEIU to fight for high quality, affordable and safe healthcare for every person - regardless of their ability to pay, race, gender identity, background or immigration status. Together, I know the we can and will achieve this.”

**Gale Brewer (6<sup>th</sup> District):** "I am so grateful to have been endorsed by the physicians of Doctors Council SEIU. They are heroes who are on the frontlines providing essential care to New York City residents. I look forward to continuing to fight alongside them to ensure every New Yorker has access to high quality affordable healthcare."

**Shaun Abreu (7<sup>th</sup> District):** “We are honored to receive the endorsement of the Doctors Council. We share in the council's goal of making quality, affordable, health care available to all. As we emerge from the pandemic, I will fight to make sure the voices of frontline doctors and nurses are always heard.”

**Diana Ayala (8<sup>th</sup> District):** "I am so proud to have fought for healthcare workers on the frontlines, and humbled by the endorsement of the SEIU Doctor's Council. Essential workers have kept our city running, and I look forward to continuing to work with everyone to ensure our recovery uplifts every community in our city. I will never stop fighting for East Harlem and the South Bronx with dedicated labor activists by my side."

**Carmen De La Rosa (10<sup>th</sup> District):** “I am proud to receive the endorsement of Doctors Council! Our community was devastated by COVID-19 and we need to ensure access to high-quality universal healthcare for all. In City Council, I will fight for increased mental health outreach, ensuring that our doctors and first responders have adequate resources to cope with the stresses of their labor and that our community is able to overcome stigmas around receiving mental health treatment. There is a lot of work to be done and I am honored to stand with the heroes at the Doctors Council!”

**Eric Dinowitz (11<sup>th</sup> District):** “Thank you to the Doctors Council for supporting my re-election and believing in my vision for District 12. The labor movement is at the heart of New York City and unions are a valuable addition to any workplace. I am a proud ally to the labor movement and will continue to fight for them and protect the right to organize if I am re-elected.”

**Marjorie Velazquez (13<sup>th</sup> District):** “Doctors Council knows that your voice and your vote count and with their support I look forward to serving my community and making sure they can provide quality accessible care and services to all.”

**Ischia Bravo (15<sup>th</sup> District):** “Our medical personnel stood on the front lines throughout the pandemic. The members of the Doctors Council SEIU put their lives on the line to protect the residents of our city, and as a member of the City Council I will stand by their side to ensure they are treated fairly in contract negotiations and have the resources they need to keep us healthy and safe. I am proud to have their support, and I look forward to working with them as we rebuild our city post-pandemic.”

**Amanda Farias (18<sup>th</sup> District):** "I'm honored to have the endorsement of the Doctors Council. We saw the instrumental role doctors played in our resilience and ability to tackle this unprecedented moment through the pandemic. Their patience, knowledge, and dedication to science are crucial in our ever-evolving healthcare landscape. I will fight to ensure that our doctors can work in institutions that are well funded and resourced and remain committed to ensuring that front-line workers like doctors receive the dignity they deserve."

**Austin Shafran (19<sup>th</sup> District):** “It shouldn’t take a global pandemic to appreciate the amazing, life-saving work that our doctors do every day, but if you weren’t paying attention before everyone should now see how crucial our frontline physicians are. I’m honored to have the support of the Doctors Council SEIU and lend my voice to their chorus of compassionate care and advocacy for doctors and patients.”

**James Gennaro (24<sup>th</sup> District):** “I am proud to accept the endorsement of the Doctors Council SEIU. The physicians, dentists, and healthcare workers who make up the Doctors Council SEIU provide an essential service to New Yorkers by providing quality care and advocating for improvements in the delivery of patient services. These men and women have been on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic and have delivered for New Yorkers day in and day out. Now more than ever our healthcare workers need representatives in the City Council who can lead our city as we combat the crisis of Covid-19 and deliver the resources they need. I pledge to be an advocate for them as a member of the City Council.”

**Shekar Krishnan (25<sup>th</sup> District):** ““I have always respected and supported our city's medical workers. To have the support of the Doctors Council, just as New York turns toward the hard work of recovery from COVID-19, is incredibly humbling. The frontline work by doctors, nurses, and all health care workers to protect our communities through this pandemic, and in the recovery that lies ahead of us, is nothing short of heroic. I'm proud to have the Doctors Council with us in our movement and I'll work every day in the City Council to protect public health and support the healthcare workers who make it happen.”

**Amit Bagga (26<sup>th</sup> District):** “While refrigerated trucks piling up with bodies sat outside Elmhurst Hospital, our public hospital doctors fought a Sisyphean battle inside, all while handicapped by wildly inadequate resources. With just 1.8 hospital beds per 1,000 residents - the lowest per-capita ratio of all the five boroughs - Queens wasn't just the epicenter of the COVID-19 last year, it also has been the epicenter of a larger healthcare crisis here in NYC, one which in residents of

District 26 have no safe place to give birth or get free, high-quality culturally-responsive preventative care in our neighborhoods. I'm honored to have the support of the Doctors Council, with whom we're going to fight to fully fund and expand our Health + Hospitals system, invest deeply in our high schools and in CUNY to create a pipeline of diverse medical students, fight in Congress to lift the residency cap, and more, so that we can guarantee free, high-quality to all New Yorkers in need, from Ravenswood to Woodside."

**Nantasha Williams (27<sup>th</sup> District):** "I am deeply grateful for the endorsement of Doctors Council. During this long and arduous pandemic, our health care professionals have been bastions of hope and healing. As District 27's city council member, I hope to advocate for the physicians and dentists who have risked their lives for the health and wellbeing of our community. I am also dedicated to improving the health and healthcare access of all members of our District."

**Selvena Brooks-Powers (31<sup>st</sup> District):** "Councilwoman Selvena N. Brooks-Powers is working tirelessly to expand healthcare access in Southeast Queens. Doctors Council (SEIU) is excited to support her re-election campaign where she'll continue fighting to address health inequities here and across the city."

**Lincoln Restler (33<sup>rd</sup> District):** "I'm honored to be endorsed by Doctors Council. The doctors who have kept us safe and healthy during COVID are true heroes. I can't wait to fight side by side with Doctors Council to expand excellent healthcare services in our public hospital system."

**Crystal Hudson (35<sup>th</sup> District):** "I'm so grateful to our city's doctors, who have been on the frontlines of this pandemic fighting for our families. Growing up, I saw the challenges my mom faced working in our hospitals, and I'm ready to fight to ensure that our doctors have the resources and support they need and all New Yorkers have access to comprehensive healthcare services. I'm proud to have the support of Doctors Council SEIU, and I look forward to working together for safer working conditions, equitable healthcare access, and stronger communities."

**Briget Rein (39<sup>th</sup> District):** "I have made it a priority in this campaign to talk about COVID relief and recovery. That is why I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Doctors Council. Last year, I banged on pots and pans every night at 7. As your Council Member, I will bang on every door in Albany and Washington, D.C. to make sure all of our frontline workers are compensated for the lifesaving work they have done since the beginning of this pandemic."

**Charles Barron (42<sup>nd</sup> District):** "I deem it a great honor to be endorse by the Doctors council/SEIU! Your professional commitment to keeping our community healthy is sorely needed and greatly appreciated! I hold your endorsement in high esteem! Thank you!"

**Ari Kagan (47<sup>th</sup> District):** "Very proud to receive an endorsement from Doctor's Council. During the pandemic, our brave doctors in hospitals risked their lives every day to save patients and to prevent the spread of the deadly disease. I coordinated delivery of private donations of food, bottled water, PPE and phone chargers to help our heroes in Coney Island Hospital and other health care facilities. Thank you, Doctors Council for your support and for your great service to our city!"

**Steven Saperstein (48<sup>th</sup> District):** “During the pandemic, our brave doctors in hospitals risked their lives every day to save patients and to prevent the spread of the deadly disease. I coordinated delivery of private donations of food, bottled water, PPE and phone chargers to help our heroes in Coney Island Hospital and other health care facilities.”

**Amoy Barnes (49<sup>th</sup> District):** “Thank you, Doctors Council for your support and for your great service to our city!”

**Sal Albanese (50<sup>th</sup> District):** “Proud to be endorsed by the hard working Doctors who are so important to keeping New Yorkers healthy.”

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### **About Doctors Council SEIU**

We are a union representing thousands of doctors in employed practice in New York State and other cities and states, including the doctors of New York City Health + Hospitals (H+H). NYC H+H is the largest public hospital system in the nation.

Doctors Council SEIU also represents doctors in the New York City mayoral agencies including the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), Department of Education (DOE) as well as doctors working at Rikers Island, the largest correctional facility in the nation.

Other agencies include Corrections, Fire, Police, Sanitation, Human Resources Administration, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The work that our members do 24/7 helps the communities and residents of New York City every day. The services we provide across the five boroughs of New York City are vital, numerous and far reaching, ranging from managing and responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, to seeing patients in hospitals and clinics, to doctors in schools, to visiting patients at home, to providing services for those throughout the tri-state region with World Trade Center issues, to work in the Medical Examiners Office, to work in corrections/fire/ police and sanitation, and so much more.

For more information, visit [www.doctorscouncil.org](http://www.doctorscouncil.org) and stay connected on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/doctorscouncilseiu> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/doctorscouncil>