

To: Steering Committee, Participatory Budgeting NYC  
From: Chris Keeley (CVH Power)  
Date: August 28, 2013  
Re: **Impacts of the 2013 NYC Elections on Participatory Budgeting NYC**

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Participatory Budgeting NYC has been growing rapidly under its current form, which sees individual councilmembers dedicate at least \$1 million of their capital discretionary funding to a process that lets their constituents directly decide how to invest those funds. PBNYC has grown from four councilmembers in 2011, to 8 the following year, and 9 participating council members this year.

Community Voices Heard has explored a range of ways Participatory Budgeting could be expanded into City agencies, such as Parks Department or the NYC Housing Authority, as well as how the next Speaker or Mayor could support PBNYC and ways to deepen civic engagement among City residents. CVH Power, the 501c4 affiliate of CVH, has reached out to city council candidates to better understand how PBNYC may be adopted by these new city council members, the next Council Speaker, and the next mayor.

**Following the 2013 election, leaders of PBNYC should expect to see the effort expand from the existing 9 districts to somewhere between 14 and 22 districts in 2014. There may also be considerable support from the next Council Speaker and the next mayor to support the existing practice and/or expand it to new agencies and areas of the city budget.**

Melissa Mark-Viverito, Mark Weprin, and Dan Garodnick, who have been mentioned as possible Speaker contenders, have implemented or indicated support for PB if they are chosen by the next class of Councilmembers as Speaker. Leading mayoral campaigns have all expressed interest in PBNYC, while John Liu<sup>1</sup> and Bill de Blasio<sup>2</sup> have each made public commitments to support PB if they are elected, as have leading candidates for Manhattan Borough President<sup>3</sup>.

As PBNYC undergoes this rapid expansion, the Council Speaker and/or the Mayor's office will need to play important roles in supporting these efforts. This could take the form of centralized support for community outreach through a new Office of Civic Engagement that supports PB and other efforts, for example.

### **Council Candidates Commit to PBNYC**

Between May and July 2013, CVH Power contacted all city council candidates registered with the NYC Campaign Finance Board asking them to respond to four questions. CVH Power received 67 responses across 35 council districts. Question included topics such as overhauling the city's workforce development system, ending the city's Work Experience Program, ending the memorandum of understanding that NYCHA has with the City's Police and Sanitation Departments, and about PBNYC. The PB question was:

*"If elected, I commit to participating in the Participatory Budgeting NYC process by dedicating at least \$1 million of my capital discretionary funds to be decided by the residents of my Council District. More info is available at [www.PBNYC.org](http://www.PBNYC.org)."*

The chart on the next page lays out the candidates answering YES to the above question. The responses to all the questions are available on the CVH Power website.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/liu-proposes-the-peoples-budget/>

<sup>2</sup> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIMDhJaW-n8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIMDhJaW-n8) and [www.billdeblasio.com/issues/reform-and-transparency](http://www.billdeblasio.com/issues/reform-and-transparency)

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, [http://jessicalappin.com/wp-content/uploads/PolicyPaper\\_CommunityPlanning.pdf](http://jessicalappin.com/wp-content/uploads/PolicyPaper_CommunityPlanning.pdf) or <http://juliemenin.com/transparency/>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://cvhpower.org/2013-city-council-elections>. CVH Power undertook an endorsement process in certain districts, and some supportive candidates responses presented in this chart were gathered through that endorsement process. That is why they will not appear in the online survey chart.

As a result of these surveys, all leading Democratic candidates in 5 council districts have committed to participate in PBNYC when they take office, while at least some of the leading candidates in another 8 districts indicate they would participate should they be elected. That means PBNYC, in its current form using capital discretionary funding, will expand from the current 9 districts to somewhere between 14 districts and 22 districts next year.

District	Name	PB?
3	<b>Corey Johnson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
3	<b>Yetta Kurland</b>	<b>Yes</b>
5	<i>Benjamin Kallos</i>	Yes
6	<b>Marc Landis</b>	<b>Yes</b>
6	<b>Mel Wymore</b>	<b>Yes</b>
6	<b>Debra Cooper</b>	<b>Yes</b>
6	<b>Noah Gotbaum</b>	<b>Yes</b>
6	<b>Helen Rosenthal</b>	<b>Yes</b>
7	<i>Gerard D. Powell</i>	Yes
7	<i>Mark Levine</i>	Yes
7	<i>Mark Otto</i>	Yes
*8	Tamika Humphreys	Yes
*8	Angel Molina	Yes
*8	Ariel Guerrero	Yes
*8	Ed Santos	Yes
*8	Melissa Mark Viverito	Yes
*8	Sean Gardner	Yes
*8	Gwen Goodwin	Yes
10	Francesca Castellanos	Yes
11	<b>Cliff Stanton</b>	<b>Yes</b>
11	<b>Andrew Cohen</b>	<b>Yes</b>
16	Daryl L. Johnson	Yes
16	Carlton Berkely	Yes
16	William Russell Moore	Yes
19	<i>Chrissy Voskerichian</i>	Yes
19	<i>Paul Graziano</i>	Yes
19	<i>Austin Shafran</i>	Yes
20	Evergreen C. Chou	Yes

District	Name	PB?
22	Lynne Serpe	Yes
24	Andrea Veras	Yes
27	<i>I. Daneek Miller</i>	Yes
28	Breina Payne	Yes
*31	Michael Duncan	Yes
*31	Donovan Richards	Yes
32	Lew M Simon	Yes
34	<i>Antonio Reynoso</i>	Yes
35	<b>Olanike Alabi</b>	<b>Yes</b>
35	<b>Ede S Fox</b>	<b>Yes</b>
35	<b>F Richard Hurley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
35	<b>Jelani Mashriki</b>	<b>Yes</b>
35	<b>Laurie Cumbo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
37	<i>Kimberly Council</i>	Yes
*38	Carlos Menchaca	Yes
*38	Sara Gonzalez	Yes
*39	Brad Lander	Yes
40	John Grant	Yes
40	Sandra Thomas	Yes
41	Kathleen Daniel	Yes
42	<i>Regina Powell</i>	Yes
42	<i>Inez Barron</i>	Yes
*45	Jumaane D. Williams	Yes
46	<i>Mercedes Narcisse</i>	Yes
47	<b>Todd Dobrin</b>	<b>Yes</b>
47	<b>Mark Treyger</b>	<b>Yes</b>
48	Theresa Scavo	Yes
50	Mendy Mirocznik	Yes

**Bolded districts** indicate most leading candidates responded YES.

*Italicized districts* indicate competitive candidates responded YES.

Asterisk (\*) indicate incumbent responded and is already participating in PBNYC.

### **A brief history of PBNYC**

**2011-2012 (4 districts):** Bi-partisan group of Council members from Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn & Queens kick off PBNYC (Lander, Mark-Viverito, Ulrich, & Williams)

**2012-2013 (8 districts):** Those 4 return and welcome 4 new participants (Levin, Greenfield, Halloran, & Weprin). Following indictment of Dan Halloran, the Speaker Christine Quinn and Queens Borough Delegation Chair Leroy Comrie take control of his discretionary funds and fully fund projects that won the PB vote.

**2013-2014 (9 districts):** 7 returning participants welcome 2 new participants (Gonzalez & Richards).

**2014-2015 (14-22 districts):** 9 current participants expected to return, with commitments from all leading candidates in 5 new districts (District 3, 6, 11, 35 & 47). In addition, competitive candidates have committed in 8 more districts (District 5, 7, 19, 27, 34, 37, 42 & 46).