2026 Charter Revision — Ballot Proposals

Community Board 8 Manhattan · Charter Revision Task Force

October 1, 2026

What this meeting is — and isn't

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- Reading the actual amendment language, line by line
- Showing the wording that appears on your ballot
- Explaining what a YES and a NO vote each do
- Answering questions and pointing you to the full text

WHAT WE ARE NOT DOING

- Recommending a YES or NO vote on any question
- Taking a Board position or issuing a resolution
- Telling you how to vote

The Task Force takes no position for or against any ballot question.

How tonight works

For each of the two questions, we follow the same three steps.

1

The amendment text

We share our screen and scroll the actual language, reading what is added and what is struck.

2

The ballot wording

The exact words you will see in the voting booth.

3

YES and NO

What each vote would do.

Five questions on the November ballot

Tonight we cover Questions 2 and 5. Questions 1, 3 and 4 were covered September 23.

1	Using public space: cafes, ramps, benches, planters	Sept 23
2	City contracting paperwork and the Procurement Policy Board	Tonight
3	Street safety projects, City land, and office leases	Sept 23
4	Building permits and waterfront permitting	Sept 23
5	Rainy day fund targets and contributions	Tonight

QUESTION 2

City contracting paperwork and the Procurement Policy Board

CB8M

Question 2 — What appears on your ballot

Reduce City Contractor Paperwork; Require Regular Meetings of Procurement Policy Board

“Reduce paperwork for City contractors by authorizing Procurement Policy Board to simplify contractor questionnaire. Require quarterly meetings of the Procurement Policy Board. Remove mandatory hearing for required client services report.”

This is the full text of the question as it will appear. Source: Appendix A, Proposed Ballot Questions, July 23, 2026.

YES Question 2 — What would change with a YES · Contractor database & disclosure

- **Who decides.** Today the Mayor and the Comptroller jointly make policy decisions for the City's contractor database and agree on its format. A YES gives those decisions to the Director of Contract Services, who is appointed by the Mayor, within Procurement Policy Board rules.
- **What contractors disclose.** The Procurement Policy Board, not local law, would decide what contractors must submit and how often. It could ask for different information based on contract size, industry, small-business status, or other factors. Today's requirements stay until the Board adopts new rules.
- **Board meetings.** The Procurement Policy Board would have to meet at least quarterly, starting January 1, 2027. Today the Charter sets no schedule.

YES Question 2 — What would change with a YES · Approvals, plans & public notice

- **Contracts over $5 million.** Today, contracts over $5 million awarded by methods other than sealed bidding or scored sealed proposals need the Mayor's personal approval, and that approval cannot be handed to the agency. A YES would let it be delegated to the agency's chief contracting officer, with the agency head's consent. Delegations are reported to the Council each year.
- **Client services plans.** Agencies would publish one plan by September 30 each year. Today they publish a draft, hold a public hearing, and then publish a final.
- **Public comment on contracts.** Contracts awarded without sealed bids would keep an online comment period of at least 7 days. The Procurement Policy Board, rather than a fixed $100,000, would set which contracts it applies to. This takes effect October 1, 2030.

NO

Question 2 — What a NO vote does

Nothing. Contracting rules stay as they are today:

- The Mayor and Comptroller keep joint responsibility for policy decisions about the contractor database
- What contractors must disclose stays set by local law, with the same questions for every vendor
- The Procurement Policy Board has no required meeting schedule
- Agencies keep a draft plan, a public hearing, and a final plan for client services
- Mayoral approval of those contracts over $5 million cannot be delegated to agencies
- The online comment period and its $100,000 threshold continue until the 2024 state law that created them expires on October 1, 2030

Question 2 — Open questions

The amendment text does not clearly answer two questions. We have asked the Manhattan Borough President's office and will share the answers when we receive them.

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1 **When does the director take over the database’s format?**

The amendment delays changes to contractor disclosure requirements until the Procurement Policy Board adopts new rules. It does not say whether that delay also applies to the director deciding the database's format, which today the Mayor and Comptroller agree on together.

2 **Does the Council still get advance notice?**

Today, the Board must notify the City Council 45 days before it starts writing a rule that exempts contractors from disclosure. The new language applies “notwithstanding any provision” of the current law. It is not clear whether that notice would still be required.

Question 2 — The law today: Administrative Code § 6-116.2

This is the current law Question 2 would override. We will scroll the full text on screen.

- **Who decides today:** “the mayor shall be responsible for operation of the system; the mayor and the comptroller shall be jointly responsible for all policy decisions relating to the system.” — § 6-116.2(b)
- **Format:** Information is kept in a form agreed upon by the Mayor and the Comptroller. — § 6-116.2(c)
- **What contractors disclose:** A list set in the law itself, including ownership, affiliates, past sanctions, tax warrants and liens, criminal convictions, and lobbyists involved in the contract.
- **Council notice:** Before exempting contractors from disclosure, the Procurement Policy Board must notify the Council 45 days in advance. — § 6-116.2(i)

Full text: codelibrary.amlegal.com → Administrative Code → search 6-116.2

Question 2 — To read in full

Question 2 changes rules found outside the amendment text.

Administrative Code § 6-116.2

codelibrary.amlegal.com → Administrative Code → search 6-116.2

The current contractor database and disclosure law.

City Charter § 20-t

codelibrary.amlegal.com → City Charter → search 20-t

The Office of Contract Services: who the director is, and what that office already controls.

City Charter § 317

codelibrary.amlegal.com → City Charter → search 317

The mayoral contract approvals the new delegation power reaches.

City Charter § 326

codelibrary.amlegal.com → City Charter → search 326

The current comment-period rules, as amended by state law in 2024.

QUESTION 5

Rainy day fund targets and contributions

Charter Proposal 5 — Rainy day fund targets and contributions

Question 5 — What appears on your ballot

Set Contribution Targets for Rainy Day Fund to Promote Sufficient Budgetary Reserves

“Set target amount of money to hold in reserve funds, including rainy day fund, to address unexpected financial hardships in future years, and require development of methodology to calculate contributions.”

This is the full text of the question as it will appear. Source: Appendix A, Proposed Ballot Questions, July 23, 2026.

YES Question 5 — What would change with a YES

- For the first time, a reserve target: at least 12% of the prior year's tax revenue. The rainy day fund counts toward it, plus any other reserve funds the City names in its methodology.
- The Office of Management and Budget, consulting the Comptroller, would publish a deposit methodology by May 1, 2027. It would be updated by May 1, 2030 and at least every four years after, with a public comment period and a hearing.
- Starting with the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2027, the City would deposit whatever the methodology requires when reserves are below target. Every deposit still needs approval in the City budget, and the methodology may find that no deposit is required in a given year.
- Withdrawing more than half the fund in one year would require the Mayor to certify a compelling fiscal need, such as a recession, a drop in revenue, a disaster, or a state of emergency.

NO

Question 5 — What a NO vote does

Nothing. The rainy day fund stays as it is today:

- The fund voters created in 2019 continues, with no target amount
- Deposits stay discretionary and are negotiated in each year's budget
- No required methodology, comment period, or hearing on reserve policy
- Per the Commission's report, the withdrawal limits in state law continue to apply

Read everything yourself

Every document we used tonight is public.

The proposals

nyc.gov/site/charter

Reports tab. The Adopted Final Report, Proposed Charter Amendments, Ballot Questions and Ballot Abstracts.

The Charter & Admin Code

codelibrary.amlegal.com

The current law, updated continuously. Search by section number — e.g. 317 or 1528.

Your ballot & polling place

vote.nyc

Confirm your registration, find your poll site, and see your full ballot before Election Day.

Questions?

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3

Check your registration, poll site, and full ballot at vote.nyc

Community Board 8 and the Charter Revision Task Force take no position for or against any ballot question.