

Valerie S. Mason  
Chair

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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

April 23, 2025

Henry Garrido, Co-chair  
New York City Commission to Strengthen Local Democracy  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Arva Rice, Co-Chair  
New York City Commission to Strengthen Local Democracy  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**RE: The Language of Ballot Issues Should be Objective, Factual, and Accurate**

Dear Chairs Garrido and Rice,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on April 16, 2025, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

**WHEREAS** New York City ballot measures often deal with issues of city law and government that are complicated and/or unfamiliar to the general public; and

**WHEREAS** valid ballot measures should be presented to the public in a matter that enables voters to understand what they are voting on; and

**WHEREAS** descriptions of ballot measures should not promote a particular viewpoint or outcome but only state the facts;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8M recommends that the Charter Revision Commission approve a ballot initiative to amend the New York City Charter to require that ballot measures be presented on the ballots objectively, factually, and accurately.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Valerie S. Mason*

Valerie S. Mason  
Chair

*Edward Hartzog and Sharon Weiner*

Edward Hartzog and Sharon Weiner  
Co-Chairs, Voting Reform and Charter Revision Task Force

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York  
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District  
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District  
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8<sup>th</sup> Council District