



2022: A Blueprint for New York State

Introduction + Commitment

NYIC Action calls upon any candidate interested in receiving our support to enthusiastically agree to our “Blueprint for New York State”. As our state continues the years-long process to rebuild our communities and systems in the wake of the economic and social devastation wrought by COVID-19, we have a historic opportunity to center equity in our recovery efforts and address the structural inequities that have been laid bare.

We must go beyond the work we have successfully done to date and build a more just and equitable New York state for all. A state where racial justice is at the forefront of policy, not an afterthought. A state where those with and without citizenship status can survive, thrive and have a pathway for upward economic mobility.

In order to be considered for our official endorsement process, you must agree to champion our blueprint and adopt it as part of your campaign’s policy platform.

Our Blueprint

The last four years have challenged immigrant communities in the state to build their resiliency and advance despite countless sustained federal attacks. We recognize that even with a welcome change in the White House, New York’s immigrant communities cannot count on the federal government to ensure all of the conditions necessary for a just future for immigrants. We need state elected officials and decision makers to show true leadership, and join us as invested partners in ensuring justice and opportunity for all.

We offer this blueprint in five issue areas that are critical to immigrant communities in New York state:

- Creating Healthy Communities
- Ending State Support for Detention, Deportation and Mass Incarceration
- Quality Education
- Building Political Power and Guaranteed Civil Rights
- Ensuring Economic Justice and Good Jobs

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Creating Healthy Communities

New York state's ability to protect immigrant residents during and after the COVID-19 pandemic requires a strong and equitable health care system that provides the right services and information in the right places at the right times. More than 400,000 New Yorkers currently cannot enroll in affordable health insurance because of their immigration status, even as they have been at the forefront of the state's fight against COVID-19, representing 54 percent of the state's essential workers.

*As a candidate running for public office and when elected, I commit to ensuring that low-income immigrants have access to safety net programs for health care and other critical services. **I pledge to support Coverage for All**, which will allocate \$462 million to create a state-funded Essential Plan for all New Yorkers up to 200% of the federal poverty level who are currently excluded because of their immigration status (introduced as A.880/S.1572).*

Ending State Support for Detention, Deportation and Mass Incarceration

In the last 20 years, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, spending on federal immigration enforcement has ballooned. Year after year, agencies like ICE and CBP have bigger budgets to arrest, detain and deport immigrant families. New York must end all state involvement in the federal detention and deportation system, end state violence against Black and brown people, and ensure everyone has the right to true due process.

*As a candidate running for public office and when elected, **I pledge to support the New York for All Act**, which broadly prohibits state and local officers from enforcing federal immigration laws, funneling people into ICE custody, and sharing sensitive information with ICE. It prohibits ICE from entering non-public areas of state and local property without a judicial warrant. It also ensures that people in custody are given notice of their rights before being interviewed by ICE, and starts the process of limiting ICE access to state information databases (introduced as A.9586/S.7562).*

*As a candidate running for public office and when elected, **I pledge to support the Access to Representation Act** to ensure a right to counsel for all immigrants facing deportation in New York and guarantee that no New Yorker must defend themselves alone against a trained government lawyer to protect themselves and their families from deportation (introduced as S.81/A.01961).*

*As a candidate running for public office and when elected, **I pledge to support increasing immigration legal services funding to \$25 million** to ensure immigrants have access to the legal services they need.*



Quality Education

We envision a state where immigrant children, youth, and adults have equitable access to quality schools and programs that support their successful long-term integration into mainstream civic, economic, and cultural life. Immigrant parents and children have intersecting integration and educational needs. Designing services with an eye to these two-generation needs is necessary to ensure parents and youth advance in interconnected and mutually reinforcing ways.

As a candidate running for public office and when elected, I pledge to support investing \$25 million to fund high-quality, community-based Adult Literacy Education. Adult Literacy Education (ALE) is one of the only sources of funding that guarantees seats in community-based English classes (ESOL) and classes to help parents learn reading and math for beginning adult learners. ALE is dramatically underfunded in New York in spite of the fact that more than 3.5 million New Yorkers lack English language proficiency, a high school diploma, or both.

Even before the pandemic, New York consistently struggled to address the shortage of qualified bilingual educators – including special education teachers, school counselors, social workers, and paraprofessionals. *As a candidate running for public office and when elected, I pledge to support fully funding bilingual educator pipelines* to address historic shortages and support immigrant families.

Building Political Power and Guaranteed Civil Rights

We live in a democracy, and yet immigrant New Yorkers, citizens and noncitizens alike, face unique barriers to participating in our democracy. Lack of language access is one of the most significant barriers that New York's immigrant communities face in participating in our democracy as well as in accessing critical State services. The only way for New York to have a truly full and equitable recovery is to include our immigrant communities, and without language access that is not possible.

As a candidate running for public office and when elected, I pledge to support Language Access legislation that codifies & expands on existing Executive Order 26.1 by enacting a mechanism to respond to changing immigration trends and expands the number of statewide languages of translation (introduced as S.5236/A.7428).

As a candidate running for public office and when elected, I pledge to support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to establish a state preclearance program, broaden language assistance, and define protections against voter intimidation (introduced as S.1046)



Ensuring Economic Justice and Good Jobs

Immigrants will be critical in the work of rebuilding New York's economy in a post COVID-19 world, but only if they are given the protections, opportunity and support needed to ensure economic power. We must make sure everyone can access a good job while continuing efforts to ensure every job is, in fact, a good one.

*As a candidate running for public office and when elected, I pledge to support allocating an **additional \$3.1 billion to the existing Excluded Worker Fund**, with 10 percent for administrative costs and the remaining 90 percent for benefits. This would serve an additional 173,000 excluded workers -- bringing the total to 295,000 beneficiaries across the state and bring much needed economic activity to areas of the state that have been left behind.*