

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND  
ELECTIONS

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Thursday, April 10, 2025  
Start: 10:00 a.m.  
Recess: 10:12 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Keith Powers, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

*Speaker Adrienne E. Adams*  
Diana I. Ayala  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Justin L. Brannan,  
Gale A Brewer  
Selvena Brooks-Powers  
Amanda Farías  
Crystal Hudson,  
Rafael Salamanca  
Pierina Ana Sanchez

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS

A P P E A R A N C E S

Marc Landis,  
Nominee - Manhattan Democratic Elections  
Commissioner for New York County

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS 3

2 SERGEANT LEWIS: Mic check, mic check for the  
3 Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections in the  
4 Committee Room. Today's date is April 10, 2025.

5 Recorded by Walter Lewis.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Everything sounds good.

7 Good morning, and welcome to the New York City  
8 Council vote for the Committee on Rules, Privileges,  
9 and Elections.

10 At this time, everyone please silence your cell  
11 phones. At this time, and going forward, no one is to  
12 approach the dais. I repeat, no one is to approach  
13 the dais.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: [GAVEL]

16 Good morning, and welcome to the meeting of the  
17 Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections. I'm  
18 Council Member Keith Powers, Chair of the Committee.

19 Before we begin, I'd like to introduce the other  
20 members of this Committee who are present. We are  
21 joined by Speaker Adrienne Adams; Council Member  
22 Brannan; Council Member Farías; Council Member Ayala;  
23 Council Member Hudson; and Council Member Brewer. I  
24 also want to acknowledge... And we will be joined, I  
25 think, shortly by others.

2 I would also like to acknowledge the committee  
3 counsel, Jeffrey Campagna, and the committee staff  
4 who worked on the appointments that we will hear  
5 today: Chief Ethics and Compliance Counsel, Pearl  
6 Moore; Director of Investigations, Francesca  
7 Dellavecchia; and Deputy Director of Investigations,  
8 Alycia Vassell.

9 Today, we'll be holding a public hearing  
10 regarding the New York County Democratic Committee's  
11 recommendation of Marc Landis for appointment to the  
12 Board of Elections. We will then vote on that matter  
13 and the candidates we heard at our April 1st meeting.

14 By a letter dated March 28, 2025; pursuant to §  
15 3-204 of the New York State Election Law, the  
16 secretary of the New York County Democratic Party  
17 filed on the Clerk of the Council's recommendation of  
18 Marc Landis for appointment as a commissioner of the  
19 New York City Board of Elections to serve the  
20 remainder of a four-year term that expires on  
21 December 31, 2026.

22 I want to note for the record, it is exceedingly  
23 rare that this committee considers candidates  
24 recommended by the Democratic or Republican parties  
25 for membership of the Board of Elections, and New

2 York City law provides that members of the Council of  
3 each party have the power to appoint their candidates  
4 to the board without interference from members or of  
5 the other political party. That process takes at  
6 least 30 days. However, this situation is unique  
7 because of the timing of the primary election cycle,  
8 in which members of the Board of Elections will  
9 decided petition challenges. Because of that, we  
10 cannot leave a seat vacant until the Democratic  
11 conference is able to act.

12 Therefore, pursuant to § 3-204 of the New York  
13 State Election Law and 10.60 of the Rules of the  
14 Council, I am now opening a public hearing on this  
15 recommendation. Mr. Landis, you can please join us at  
16 the dais?

17 Please raise your right hand to be sworn in.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Do you affirm to tell the  
19 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in  
20 your testimony before this committee and in answer to  
21 all council member questions?

22 MARC LANDIS: I so affirm.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I will now recognize you to  
25 make a statement.

2 MARC LANDIS: Thank you. Good morning, Madam  
3 Speaker, Chairman Powers, Council Members. My name is  
4 Marc Landis; it's my privilege to be here before you  
5 today to tell you a bit about myself and seek your  
6 approval to become the next Manhattan Democratic,  
7 Commissioner of the Board of Elections.

8 I am a forty-year Democratic Party activist,  
9 committed always to expanding voting opportunity. And  
10 this is a place where I hope that working with you,  
11 and other legislators, that I will be able to  
12 continue to build on that kind of work from the  
13 inside as opposed to just from the outside. I also  
14 know that there's a lot of work ahead in terms of  
15 administering elections. The laws change frequently,  
16 and I look forward to working with colleagues, both  
17 in government, and the volunteers who make up such an  
18 important part of the process, to ensure that  
19 everybody has all the tools they need and all the  
20 resources they need to be able to ensure that we have  
21 an open and fair voting system.

22 And as a long time attorney and also the managing  
23 partner of a medium-sized law firm, I bring  
24 administrative and managerial experience that I hope  
25 will enable me to work with my colleagues at the

2 Board to find ways in which the board can work most  
3 effectively. My litigation before the Board of  
4 Elections, of course, will come to an end. I am not a  
5 frequent litigator there.

6 I am particularly proud of two pro bono matters  
7 that I've worked on in the last few years. One, to  
8 restore voting rights to a federal prison releasee  
9 under the CARES Act to ensure that they would have  
10 the same rights as New York State prisoner releasees  
11 would do. And I am excited to see that the state is  
12 making that information known to prisoners as they  
13 are released, and hopefully, we can use some moral  
14 suasion on the federal government to do the same over  
15 time. And I've worked closely with Common Cause and  
16 the Black Institute in looking to challenge the  
17 approval of election machines at the state level that  
18 don't meet the kinds of tests that we want to see in  
19 terms of verifiable voter trails.

20 I've served as a Democratic Party District Leader  
21 for twenty years and now as a member of the  
22 Democratic State Committee for the last six years. I  
23 also work closely with interfaith organizations to  
24 promote democratic, uh, small-d democratic and  
25 progressive values, both locally and worldwide.

2 So, I thank you for your consideration, and I'm  
3 happy to answer any questions you might have for me.

4 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you, any questions to  
5 begin?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Not a question, but just  
7 to second what I think others know, which is that  
8 Marc Landis, many of us have known him for a long  
9 time, I am fortunate to work for him, because I am  
10 the council member for the district. And I just want  
11 to say that he is eminently qualified. And what's  
12 particularly great about Marc Landis is he keeps in  
13 touch with people. So those of us who are interested  
14 in this topic, he will be glad to answer questions  
15 and make sure that we know what the issues are at the  
16 Board of Elections. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you.

18 Just a few questions. I noted a sort of unique  
19 circumstance by which the timing is, and I think we  
20 all feel the urgency to fill a empty seat with  
21 election cycle fully underway. Were you... did you...  
22 you're a state committee member today. Is that  
23 correct?

24 MARC LANDIS: Yes.  
25

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS 9

2 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Will you... there will be  
3 challenges to petitions and other conversations in  
4 the coming weeks. Are you a signer of any petitions  
5 that would be appear at the Board of Elections?

6 MARC LANDIS: (BACKGROUND NOISE) I'm sorry? Did I  
7 sign any... (CROSS-TALK)

8 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: (INAUDIBLE) a witness or a  
9 signer of any petitions that would appear at the  
10 Board?

11 MARC LANDIS: I did sign a petition, and I did  
12 witness a petition. The only signatories on the  
13 petition that I witnessed were my wife and my  
14 daughter - who is sitting behind me. So I hope those  
15 two signatures will not be challenged by anybody.

16 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Got it, I don't think they  
17 will be. I think they're... I think they meet the  
18 criteria of... And just, how would you handle a  
19 potential conflict if there were one or one if you  
20 were a witness or a signer or other issue that might  
21 come before the Board where there would be a  
22 perceived conflict? - Being that we are in the thick  
23 of the election cycle and, obviously, you couldn't  
24 have been predicted this was going happen, so  
25 potentially may have done any of those things.

2 MARC LANDIS: Sure, well certainly in any  
3 situation where there is either an actual or an  
4 apparent conflict, I would seek guidance the Board of  
5 Elections counsel, and ultimately recuse if there is  
6 an issue. I do serve on some committees on vacancies  
7 of candidates, so I understand that issue may come up  
8 in that context. However, with the possibility of  
9 this appointment pending, I intentionally did not get  
10 involved in any cleaning, binding, or submission of  
11 petitions this year just to make sure that it would  
12 not become an issue.

13 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Got it. And in the Committee  
14 of Vacancies issue, you would recuse yourself as  
15 well?

16 MARC LANDIS: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Got it, okay. Other  
18 questions?

19 We can take a vote. Oh, sorry, we'll, excuse you  
20 and allow for public testimony, thanks so much.

21 I'll now open the floor to public testimony. Are  
22 there any members of the public who have signed up to  
23 testify on the recommendation of Marc Landis to serve  
24 on the Board of Elections?

25 (PAUSE)

2 Seeing no one signed up to public hearing on the  
3 recommendation to serve on the Board Of Elections is  
4 now closed. Thank you, Mr. Landis.

5 We will now vote on the following items:

6 Resolution 820, Resolution pursuant to Section  
7 626 of the New York City Charter appointing Lauren  
8 Stossel to serve on the New York City Board of  
9 Corrections for the remainder of a six-year term  
10 that expires on February 1, 2029.

11 Resolution 821, a Resolution pursuant to Section  
12 4 of the New York City Health + Hospitals Corporation  
13 Act, designating Dr. Patricia Marthone to be  
14 reappointed by the Mayor to sit on the Board of  
15 Health + Hospitals Corporation for the remainder of a  
16 five-year term that expires on March 20, 2028.

17 A Resolution pursuant §31 and 192(a), granting  
18 the Council's advice and consent to the Public  
19 Advocate's reappointment of Leah S. Goodridge as a  
20 member of the City Planning Commission to serve a  
21 five-year term that will begin on July 1, 2025 and  
22 expire on June 30, 2030.

23 A Preconsidered Resolution pursuant to § 3-204 of  
24 the New York State Election Law appointing Marc  
25 Landis to serve a New York County Democratic Party's

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS 12

2 Commissioner on the Board of Elections for the  
3 remainder of a four-year term expiring on December  
4 31, 2026.

5 And finally we will be voting on to approve a  
6 Preconsidered Resolution authorizing the Speaker to  
7 take legal action on behalf of the Council of the  
8 City of New York to defend against the Adams  
9 Administration's violation of Sanctuary City Laws and  
10 the Trump Administration's attacks on the City of New  
11 York.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Just briefly, this Resolution is  
13 going to handle the Executive Order. I strongly ask  
14 that my colleagues vote aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you. Do any members of  
16 the Committee of questions before we proceed?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I will now call upon the  
19 Clerk to call roll.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,  
21 Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on Rules,  
22 Privileges, and Elections, all items are coupled.

23 Chair Powers?

24 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I vote aye, congratulations  
25 to Mr. Landis.

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS 13

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Salamanca from the cheap  
6 seats.

7 (LAUGHTER)

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

9 Deputy Speaker Ayala?

10 DEPUTY SPEAKER AYALA: I vote aye, and would also  
11 like to congratulate Mr. Landis.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Majority Whip Brooks-Powers?

15 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: (ABSENT)

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye, and  
18 congratulation the entire Landis community, thank  
19 you.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Majority Leader Fariás?

21 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I vote aye,  
22 congratulations.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I vote aye on all, and  
25 congratulations.

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS 14

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: (INAUDIBLE)

4 congratulations.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member

6 Sanchez.

7 Speaker Adams?

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye on all, congratulations.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of nine in the  
10 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions  
11 all items have been adopted by the Committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you, the meeting of the  
13 Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections is  
14 hereby adjourned. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date May 8, 2025