

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE
AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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November 25, 2025
Start: 11:15 a.m.
Recess: 11:21 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
David M. Carr
James F. Gennaro
Shahana Hanif
Frank Morano
Lynn C. Schulman
Inna Vernikov

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Amanda Farías

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
check, microphone check for the Committee on
Governmental Operations, State, and Federal
Legislations here in HR 1 on November 25th, 2025, by
Pat Kurzyna. Check, check.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
to the Committee on Governmental Operations, State,
and Federal Legislations here in HR 1. Thank you very
much.

Chair, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL] Wonderful.
Good morning. My name is Lincoln Restler, I have the
privilege, this might, no, one more time, of at least
one more time Chairing the Committee on Governmental
Operations, State and Federal Legislation. I am Co-
Chairing this hearing with the adorable _____. We are
joined by our Majority Leader, Amanda Farías, Council
Member David Carr of Brooklyn, Council Member Frank
Morano, Council Member Shahana Hanif, Council Member
Gale Brewer, and we do not yet have Jim Gennaro
online, but Jim's coming.

Today we'll be voting on two great bills,
Intro. 441-A sponsored by Council Member Althea

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Stevens, and Intro. 1075-A sponsored by our Majority
Leader.

Intro. 441-A would require the Department
of Education to provide voter registration forms and
voting information to high school seniors. This bill
also requires DOE to report annually on efforts to
distribute voter registration forms and information
in schools. This bill is a really critical step
towards increasing civic engagement for our young
adults and reducing barriers to voter registration. I
really appreciate Council Member Stevens' always
focusing on our young people and her deep commitment
to empowering the next generation.

Intro. 1075-A would require the Borough
Presidents to work with the Civic Engagement
Commission and DCAS to provide annual training on the
Council's legislative process and rules of
parliamentary procedure for community boards. It will
also require the Mayor to designate an agency to
provide the same legislative training to precinct
community councils, community education councils,
business improvement districts. I appreciate very
much the Majority Leader bringing this issue forward
and I think thoughtfully working through the

legislation to make it an even better bill for final
passage.

With that, I'd like to turn it over to
our Majority Leader, and I'd like to recognize my
Colleague, Council Member Inna Vernikov of Brooklyn.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you so
much, Chair Restler, and thank you to the Members of
the Committee for the opportunity to speak on Intro.
1075.

I bring this important piece of
legislation before you today to address a critical
gap in how New York City prepares and supports the
civic bodies that anchor public participation across
our neighborhoods. Every month long before an issue
reaches the Council Chambers, the leadership and
members of our community boards, precinct council,
and business improvement districts, and community
education councils gather with the public across the
five boroughs. These meetings bring residents,
parents, small business owners, volunteers, and long-
term community members into direct conversation about
the issues shaping their daily lives. They are often
the very first point of contact between New Yorkers
and the systems that govern them. Yet despite the

expectations placed on these civic bodies, we have yet to equip them with the unified training needed to navigate the legislative process, public participation, or parliamentary procedure. That gap impacts how effectively these groups are able to serve their communities, how consistently meetings function, and how early and accurately neighborhood concerns can be elevated into the policymaking process. My bill, Intro. 1075, the Civic Education and Engagement Act, creates the first uniform training standard for these civic bodies. It requires that community boards, precinct councils, BIDs, and the community education councils all receive the same clear, accurate instruction in how our legislative process works, how public participation fits into it, and how parliamentary procedure should structure their meetings. Under this bill, borough presidents and the Civic Engagement Commission will develop standardized materials for community boards while the mayor designates the appropriate agencies to train PCCs, BIDs, and CECs. Beginning in 2026, this training will be required annually so that every civic leader starts with the same foundation and stays current year-to-year. We have seen what happens

when that foundation is missing. In my District, I have already had to intervene to help a civic body that underwent severe administrative and operational turbulence because members were left to interpret complex responsibilities without consistent guidance. A preventable procedural gap created confusion, fear, and instability, and it threatened to leave an entire community without a functioning civic institution. That is exactly the kind of disruption this bill is designed to prevent. When a civic body falters, it is the neighborhood that pays the price. Businesses lose support, public services become uncertain, and the residents lose the forum where their concerns should be heard and addressed. Intro. 1075 strengthens that structure these bodies rely on so they can serve communities with confidence, clarity, and consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to advance the Civic Education and Engagement Act, and it provides the tools our civic institutions need to function as they were intended, as stable, informed, reliable partners in the democratic process, and as trusted conduits between the public and their government. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you so much,
Majority Leader.

We have Council Member Gennaro online and
Council Member Schulman with us as well.

And I just want to say as we kind of
approach the end of this term, I'm really grateful to
each of the Members of this Committee and other
Members of the Council who have sponsored such great
legislation that we've been able to move through this
Committee. And bills like Council Member Stevens' and
Council Member Fariás' are like great bills that I
think make our city better, and especially the
Majority Leader's legislation will make these
volunteer bodies more effective, more informed, and
I'm really, I'm just appreciative of the bill and
appreciative we were able to get this through the
Council.

So with that, I encourage the Clerk to
call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
vote, Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
Federal Legislation. Both items are coupled.

Chair Restler. _____

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CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: We vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you.

Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you.

Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. I do
want to point out that as Borough President, I
already did all the parliamentary procedures, and I
also want to point out that I don't think it's great
to, I'm voting aye, but to coordinate with the
Mayor's Office doesn't work. The Borough President
should do it, and they should do what we did, which
is collaborate with the associations that teach and
know parliamentary procedure. People in government do
not know it, and it should be done with an outside
professional organization. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
Gutiérrez. Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Morano.

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the
negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: We're going to
adjourn. Thank you so much. [GAVEL]

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 December 14, 2025