

Who's Who in New York City Government

Who is the current **Mayor of New York City**? _____

The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city. The Mayor appoints the deputy mayors and the heads of most city agencies and proposes the budget

Who is the **Public Advocate**? _____ The Public Advocate first in line to succeed the Mayor. The office serves as a direct link between the electorate and city government, effectively acting as an ombudsman, or "watchdog," for New Yorkers. The Public Advocate monitors citizen complaints and may investigate patterns of complaints.

Who is the **City Comptroller**? _____ The Comptroller is the caretaker of the city's money and can audit and investigate all matters relating to city finances. The comptroller is responsible for auditing the performance and finances of city agencies, making recommendations regarding proposed contracts, issuing reports on the state of the city economy, marketing and selling municipal bonds, and managing city debt

Name the 5 Boroughs of NYC.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Who is your Borough President? _____ **Borough Presidents** monitor city services in their boroughs and have input into how city funds are spent in their boroughs. They each appoint one member of the City Planning Commission, one member of the Panel for Educational Policy and all the members of the community boards in their boroughs. They generally act as advocates for their boroughs to mayoral agencies, the city council, the New York State government, public corporations, and private businesses

All of these officials serve 4 year terms and are elected in the year following a Presidential election.

The Legislative branch in New York City government is the **City Council**. How many members are in the City Council? _____ (They are limited to serving 2 terms.)

City Council members have oversight over city agencies and pass the Mayor's budget. They can pass city ordinances which may be subject to review by the New York State Legislature. The Council serves as a check and balance with the mayor.

Who is your City Council member? _____

Do you have **participatory budgeting** in your district? _____(You only have to be 11 years old to submit a proposal and vote on proposals, for example local playground improvements or new bike lanes.)

The **New York City Charter** has established the framework of our City government. It covers the laws, codes and rules for the city. It may be revised or amended.

The New York City **Campaign Finance Board** may provide candidates for public office with public matching funds. For every dollar raised, a candidate may receive a match of (2, 3, 5, 6 or 10) to one. (Which number?)

NYC has 59 **Community Boards** which vote on land-use proposals and other community issues. Who appoints Community Board members?_____

What city issues do you care about most? _____

Which governmental official would you approach first about the issue that is most important to you?_____

Where can you locate information?

The League of Women Voters of New York City publishes a **Directory of Elected Officials** called *They Represent You*. You can find most of the answers to the above questions there. A free App, called **Voices**, can connect you to your elected representatives.