



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Media Contact: Christian DiPalermo  
Office: 212-838-9410, ext. 318  
Mobile: 914-715-1241

## **Parks 2009 Campaign Releases Its Voters Guide for September 15 Primary**

**September 9, 2009- New York, NY** Today, the Parks 2009 Campaign headed by New Yorkers for Parks released its Parks Voters Guide, which details where each candidate stands on pressing issues facing our 1,700 parks. While the Parks 2009 campaign does not endorse candidates, the guide includes every candidate who submitted a questionnaire. These candidates revealed whether they would support Parks Improvement Districts (PIDs), getting professional sports organizations to assist in maintaining and operating public parks near their facilities, how much public input is necessary before taking parkland, and how they would protect parkland from development and over commercialization.

“Our hope is that this guide will provide insight to voters on which candidates are dedicated to improving all neighborhood parks, which are essential to our city’s quality of life,” said Christian DiPalermo, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks.

The Parks 2009 Voters Guide investigates candidates’ responses to the most important goals for our city’s parks, beaches, and playgrounds. Sample questions include:

- Will you work towards securing long term funding for parks, and, if so, would you consider exploring creative financial models such as Parks Improvement Districts (based on the BID model), tax increment financing (TIF), zoning benefits, and public private partnerships to supplement maintenance and operating costs?
- Will you work to strengthen parkland alienation regulation?
- How will you ensure that public spaces created as amenities/mitigation for large scale economic development projects such as Atlantic Yards, Hudson Yards, and Manhattanville are truly open to the public?

All individuals who officially declared their candidacy for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough President, or City Council were invited to participate in the survey. The Candidate Questionnaire was a component of the citywide campaign, which worked with citizens, community groups, and fellow parks organizations through candidate forums, Parks Advocacy Day, and online voter education. A comprehensive parks platform was issued with the goals to:

1. Secure Long-Term Funding for Parks
2. Expand Planning, Management, and Oversight of Parks Across the City
3. Protect Parkland from Alienation

The Parks 2009 Committee includes representatives from Friends of Hudson River Park, Governor’s Island Alliance, New York Restoration Project, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, Mosholu Preservation Corporation, Prospect Park Alliance, and the Queens Civic Congress.

New Yorkers for Parks is the citywide, independent organization dedicated to ensuring that all New Yorkers enjoy a world class parks system. As a 501(c)3 organization, New Yorkers for Parks does not endorse candidates.

The Parks 2009 Voters Guide is available to download from New Yorkers for Parks’ website, [www.ny4p.org](http://www.ny4p.org), or call 212-838-9410 to obtain a copy.

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