

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS
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

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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)

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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

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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.

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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 Farías?

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

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

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

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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