

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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December 4, 2025
Start: 10:47 a.m.
Recess: 10:57 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
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana Hanif
Frank Morano
Lynn C. Schulman
Inna Vernikov

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Governmental Operations,
4 State and Federal Legislation, recorded on December
5 4, 2025, located in Hearing Room 1 by Nazly Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
9 Federal Legislation.

10 At this time, please silence all
11 electronic devices.

12 No one may approach the dais at any time.
13 Thank you.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL] Gale Brewer
16 is Tier 2 for the record. We will not recite her
17 extraordinary resume today, but if anybody would like
18 to, we may leave the hearing open to discuss it
19 further.

20 My name is Lincoln Restler. I am the
21 Chair of the Committee on Governmental Operations,
22 State and Federal Legislation for at least 20, about
23 for 25 more days. I'd like to start off by thanking
24 those of you joining us at today's vote, especially
25 my Colleagues, Council Member Inna Vernikov from

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Brooklyn, Council Member Frank Morano from Staten
Island, Council Member Lynn Schulman from Queens, and
the former Chair of this Committee and the topic of
today's conversation, Council Member Gale Brewer.

Today, we will be voting on Intro. 1225,
sponsored by our next speaker, Council Member Julie
Menin. This bill would establish an Office of the
Census, which would be tasked with maximizing local
participation in the federal decennial census.
Ensuring that every single New Yorker is counted in
the census is absolutely critical. In fact, if we had
a few more hundred people counted last time, we would
have an extra congressional seat. We cannot afford to
lose any more congressional seats or any federal
funding that is associated with the loss of those
seats. Council Member Menin took on the Herculean
task of impressively leading our census efforts in
2020, resulting in NYC having the highest response
rate of any major city in the nation. I appreciate
her continued leadership on this important issue and
her dedication to make sure that future counts are a
success.

I'd like to recognize Council Member
Shahana Hanif, my neighbor, who is with us on Zoom,

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2 and we have Brooklyn's own Council Member David Carr
3 on Zoom as well.

4 With that, Council Member Menin is not
5 here, so I'm not going to turn over to her for
6 remarks.

7 Anyone want to say anything before we
8 vote?

9 No. Lynn is ready to move.

10 I would like to ask the Clerk to call the
11 roll.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

13 (INAUDIBLE)

14 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Your mic isn't on.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: I could feel you, we
18 just couldn't hear you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
20 you, Mr. Chair.

21 Good morning. This is the Committee on
22 Governmental Operations, State and Federal
23 Legislation, voting on Intro. 1225-A.

24 We'll start with you, Chair Restler.

25 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
you.

Council Member Gennaro. Council Member
Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
Council Member Gutiérrez. Council Member Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
you, Council Member Hanif on Zoom.

Council Member Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
Council Member Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
you.

Council Member Vernikov.

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
Council Member Morano.

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Chair
Restler, by a vote of seven in the affirmative, zero

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2 in the negative, and zero abstentions, the items are
3 adopted.

4 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you very much.

5 We are going to leave this vote open for
6 Council Member Gutiérrez, who will be joining us
7 momentarily. Appreciate the patience of everyone
8 here.

9 Turn that mic on and vote.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Okay. I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
12 you, Council Member Gennaro.

13 Chair Restler, the revised vote totals
14 are eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
15 and zero abstentions.

16 Council Member Gutiérrez is in the
17 elevator. Anya has confirmed it.

18 We are joined by the illustrious and
19 distinguished Council Member Gutiérrez. We are voting
20 on Council Member Menin's bill on the census. How do
21 you vote?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank
24 you, Council Member Gutiérrez.

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2 Chair Restler, the revised vote totals
3 are nine in the affirmative, zero abstentions, and
4 zero negative.

5 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you very much.
6 We have adjourned this hearing. I think we've got one
7 more GovOps hearing coming up, and then we're done.
8 All right, Johari, don't miss me too much. [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 December 15, 2025