



AUDIT AT A GLANCE

Community Board Member Appointments by Borough Presidents' Offices

What questions did the audit look at?

- ▶ Did the five Borough Presidents' Offices comply with City Charter requirements for Community Board member appointments?
- ▶ Do Community Boards adequately represent the geographic and demographic makeup of their communities?

Why does it matter for New Yorkers?

Community Boards are the grassroots of New York City's local government. They serve an advisory role by reporting on neighborhood needs, submitting budget priorities, participating in the land use review process, and advocating for residents. The five Borough Presidents are required to seek out people of diverse backgrounds to apply for membership and consider whether the boards reflect the communities they serve.

The audit found that all five Borough Presidents' Offices made efforts to seek out people of diverse backgrounds, as required by the City Charter. However, the audit also found that, across each of the five boroughs, certain groups were underrepresented in the aggregate and/or on certain Community Boards, particularly Hispanic/Latino residents, Asian residents, younger residents, residents with less formal education, LGBTQIA residents, and people with disabilities.

Borough Presidents did not consistently ensure adequate geographic representation within districts, meaning some neighborhoods' voices were underrepresented. In some cases, ineligible candidates were appointed and candidates with poor attendance records were reappointed.

The strength of New York City's Community Boards is built on diversity. When CBs do not reflect the communities they serve, New Yorkers—particularly those belonging to historically marginalized groups—may lose a crucial avenue to influence decision-making and amplify their voices. It is essential that the Borough Presidents' Offices fulfill their commitments to ensuring that Community Boards reflect the diversity of the communities that they serve.

What changes did the agencies commit to make following the audit?

- ▶ The Queens Borough President's Office agreed to implement the best practices detailed in the report, improve reporting and recordkeeping, and map applicants and appointees' addressees prior to appointment.

AUDIT FINDINGS



The Borough Presidents' Offices made efforts to seek out people of diverse backgrounds to apply to Community Boards.



Certain demographic groups were underrepresented on Community Boards.



Some neighborhoods were overrepresented on certain Community Boards.



Some ineligible candidates were appointed to Community Boards.



Audit Recommendations		Queens BP Response	Manhattan BP Response	Brooklyn BP Response	Bronx BP Response	Staten Island BP Response
1	Coordinate, pool resources, and seek assistance from other agencies to raise awareness and develop Citywide outreach strategies for such groups, including for LGBTQIA individuals.	AGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
2	Implement the best practices detailed throughout the report aimed at ensuring that Community Boards reflect the diversity of the communities that they serve.	AGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
3	Fill Community Board vacancies.	AGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
4	Publicly report a comparison of Community Board member composition to community district composition.	AGREED	DISAGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
5	Ensure that the Demographic Report is issued by July 1 each year, and contains all information required by the City Charter.	AGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
6	Map applicants' and appointees' addresses prior to appointment or reappointment.	AGREED	DISAGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
7	Require existing Community Board members who are seeking reappointment to complete membership applications.	AGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
8	Develop a policy for Community Boards to consistently record attendance for general board meetings, collect and review attendance records to identify members who do not attend more than half of the meetings in the preceding year, and interview them to obtain a reasonable justification of absenteeism and to assess their interest in continued membership.	AGREED	DISAGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
9	Monitor attendance for those Community Board members who did not attend more than half of the general board meetings in the preceding calendar year and were subsequently reappointed and consider removing members if their attendance does not improve.	AGREED	DISAGREED	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND

Visit our website to suggest an audit and view our recommendations tracker.

<https://comptroller.nyc.gov/audit>