



For Immediate Release

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Press Contact: Rush Perez, [rperez@nyic.org](mailto:rperez@nyic.org), [415] 608-6445

**\*Media Advisory\***

## **Immigrant Advocates & Allies to Celebrate Securing Supermajority on Bill Expanding Municipal Voting Rights in Heart of Immigrant NY**

The coalition has secured a supermajority of co-sponsors on [Intro 1867](#) and is now demanding a hearing on the bill.

---

**New York, NY-On Thursday, June 17, at 11:00 AM**, the Our City, Our Vote Coalition (OCOV), NYC Council Member Francisco Moya, New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), United Neighborhood Houses, Desis Rising Up and Moving, MinKwon Center for Community Action, Street Vendor Project, allies, and immigrant New Yorkers will rally at Corona Plaza to celebrate securing a supermajority on a [New York City Council bill, Intro 1867](#), that would expand the right to vote in municipal elections to immigrant New Yorkers with legal permanent residence status or work authorization.

For more than a year and a half, the Our City, Our Vote (OCOV) coalition fought to gain an overwhelming, and veto-proof, number of co-sponsors on the bill, which would enfranchise nearly one million New Yorkers. Thursday's rally in Corona Plaza, Queens, will celebrate this milestone in the heart of immigrant New York, and call for an immediate New York City Council hearing on the legislation ([Introduction 1867](#)), as required by Council rules.

[A recent Change Research poll revealed that 65% of likely Democratic primary voters support the Our City, Our Vote legislation.](#) The fact that nearly one million New Yorkers will be unable to vote in next week's June 22 primary highlights the vital need for this historic legislation.

**WHEN: Thursday, June 17, 11:00 AM**

**WHERE: Corona Plaza (outdoors - right off the 7 train 103rd Street Station) 40-04 National St, Queens, NY**

**WHO:**

**Advocates and Elected Officials**



**NYIC**



UNITED  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
HOUSES



- **Murad Awawdeh, Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition**
- **Nora Moran, Director of Policy & Advocacy, United Neighborhood Houses**
- **Queens Borough President Donovan Richards**
- **NYC Council Member Francisco Moya**
- **NYC Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez**
- **Assemblymember Catalina Cruz**
- **Assemblymember Jesica Gonzalez-Rojas**
- **Ali Rashid, President, American Pakistani Advocacy Group**
- **Crystal Walthall, Executive Director, Faith in New York**
- **Fulvia Vargas-De Leon, Associate Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF**
- **Reverend Manuel de Jesús Rodríguez, Pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Corona**

**Directly Impacted Individuals**

- **Britney Espinoza, Member, Participatory Budget Project**
- **Mrs. Kang, Community Member, MinKwon Center for Community Action**
- **Sarai Rodriguez, Queens Resident, Member of the Street Vendors Project**
- **Kusum Shrestha, Member, Desis Rising Up & Moving**
- **Fursang Tamang, Member, Federation of Indigenous Peoples of Nepal in America**

**RALLY CO-SPONSORS:**

- **African Communities Together**
- **American Pakistani Advocacy Group**
- **Arab American Association of New York**
- **Arab American Family Support Center**
- **Chinese American Planning Council**
- **Chinese Progressive Association**
- **Chhaya CDC**
- **Desis Rising Up & Moving**
- **Faith in New York**
- **Federation of Indigenous Peoples of Nepal in America**



- Goddard Riverside Community Center
- Human Services Council
- Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- MinKwon Center for Community Action
- New York Immigration Coalition
- Nonprofit New York
- Participatory Budget Project
- Queens Community House
- Sampreshan Inc
- Street Vendor Project
- Sunnyside Community Services
- United Neighborhood Houses
- Women Creating Change

Background:

[The Our City, Our Vote coalition](#) is supporting exciting legislation that expands democracy in New York City so green card holders and those authorized to work in the United States can vote in elections for city-level offices. [Introduction 1867](#) would allow New York City residents, who are otherwise qualified to register under New York State election law, to vote in municipal elections. As of last week, the OCOV coalition secured a super-majority of co-sponsors on Intro 1867, which according to Council rules, automatically triggers a hearing on the bill in the next 60 days. Nearly [one million](#) New York City residents cannot vote in local elections due to their citizenship status, despite paying taxes and being invested in and contributing to the city.

###

*The [New York Immigration Coalition](#) (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State. We envision a New York state that is stronger because all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to pursue their dreams. Our mission is to unite immigrants, members, & allies so all New Yorkers can thrive. We represent the collective interests of New York's diverse immigrant communities and organizations and devise solutions to advance them; advocate for laws, policies, and programs that lead to justice and opportunity for all immigrant groups; and build the power of immigrants and the organizations that serve them to ensure their sustainability, to improve people's lives, and to strengthen our state.*



[United Neighborhood Houses \(UNH\)](#) is a policy and social change organization representing 44 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York's settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development. We also provide customized professional development and peer learning to build the skills and leadership capabilities of settlement house staff at all levels.