

EPOCH TIMES

Eric Yu Challenges Marte for District 1 City Council Seat

Opposes Congestion Pricing and Homeless Shelters, Supports Specialized High Schools, and Aims to Revitalize Chinatown and Lower East Side Economies

On January 12, 2025, long-time community advocate Eric Yu officially announced his candidacy for New York City Council. Running as a Democrat, he will challenge incumbent Council Member Christopher Marte, pledging to bring safety and economic vitality to District 1, which includes Chinatown, the Financial District, and Lower Manhattan.

Background and Experience

Yu has been a member of Manhattan Community Board 1 (CB1) since 2021, actively participating in the Transportation, Waterfront, and Parks Committees. A former member of the DC37 union and a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve veteran, Yu earned a degree in economics from SUNY Stony Brook and a master's in urban affairs from the City University of New York. Since 2001, he has worked for the MTA in Lower Manhattan, currently serving as Expense Analysis Supervisor for the subway department.

At a press conference held in his community, Yu, joined by friends and neighbors, shared his vision for improving the district. Explaining his motivation for running, Yu said, "Our district has been neglected over the past four years following the pandemic. Crime rates have risen, quality of life has deteriorated, and homeless shelters have been placed near schools. We must focus on public safety, economic vitality, and delivering essential municipal services for all residents and businesses."

Key Campaign Positions

Public Safety:

- Yu has been a vocal opponent of the homeless shelter project at 320 Pearl Street, which is adjacent to an elementary school.
- He advocates for increased park patrols to ensure safety and cleanliness.
- Yu supports timely maintenance of public infrastructure to bolster community well-being.

Economic Revitalization:

- Yu strongly opposes congestion pricing, which he views as a "mobility tax" that stifles economic growth.
- He supports reopening Park Row to traffic, which he believes will alleviate congestion and improve emergency vehicle access.
- Yu aims to foster community prosperity by prioritizing services that directly benefit residents and businesses.

Education:

- Yu supports maintaining the entrance exam for specialized high schools, ensuring that academic merit remains the basis for admission to these institutions.

Commitment to Inclusivity

As a Chinese-American from a working-class immigrant family, Yu emphasized the importance of inclusive representation. “My family were immigrants. I grew up in Chinatown, later moved to Queens and Brooklyn, and returned to Lower Manhattan in 2018 with my wife. I understand the barriers between communities and will work to ensure everyone is treated fairly and that no community’s interests are overlooked.”

Eric Yu’s campaign promises a focus on addressing pressing local issues while uniting the diverse communities of District 1. He aims to restore trust, safety, and prosperity to the neighborhoods he has long served.