

Tell Your Community Board to Say ‘Yes to Housing’!

Across New York City, all 59 Community Boards will vote on the **City of Yes for Housing Opportunity**, a milestone proposal to update our outdated zoning code so that we can build more housing in every neighborhood. Before your Community Board votes, **you have a chance to support** pro-housing and affordability solutions to our ongoing crises by speaking at a public hearing in the coming weeks.

What Community Board does my neighborhood belong to?

There are 59 Community Boards across the five boroughs, with each designated a different number by borough. [Click here to find your Community District](#), which corresponds to your Community Board.

Who can testify at a Community Board meeting?

Community Board meetings are open to the public, and anyone can make remarks during the public hearing. You can even bring along friends and neighbors to help you say “Yes to Housing!”

When does my Community Board meet?

All Community Boards have regular monthly meetings that the public can attend, sometimes in person and sometimes virtually. Each board posts its calendar on its respective website, but you can also [click here to stay connected with the Yes to Housing Coalition](#) for updates on scheduled public meetings. *NOTE: Please be sure to check if your Community Board is meeting virtually or in person. Some Community Boards will also offer hybrid meetings. Make a plan before the meeting on how you would like to share your remarks!*

How do I sign up with the Community Board to speak?

Each Community Board will share information about the meeting or a link to the virtual event. If virtual, be sure that you receive a link to the virtual meeting room (Zoom, WebEx, etc. — NOT YouTube) in order to make remarks. If you are unable to attend or have to leave the meeting before public remarks, you can also share written remarks with Community Board staff via email provided by the Community Board website.

Testimony Tips

- Confirm that you have the correct address or link for the meeting on the scheduled date.
- Be clear & concise – all public remarks will be timed to approximately 2 minutes.
- It’s okay to put together a script or notes – bring whatever will help you share your voice.
- Start by introducing yourself and why you care about bringing housing to your community.
- Feel free to use data or suggested talking points from the Yes to Housing Coalition to boost your arguments.
- End on a positive note—share how a more affordable NYC will benefit your community—and thank the Community Board for listening to your comments and hopefully voting “Yes to Housing.”

Suggested Talking Points

Remember: The most important outcome is for your Community Board and City Council members to hear your support for pro-housing policies. These policies will help ensure that every neighborhood can build more housing so that we can finally address the crisis.

It's important that you share why you are there to say "Yes to Housing" but it's important to stay positive and focus on the solutions that City of Yes proposes. Don't waste too much of your testimony focused on the opposition to housing. Use your story and experience, but feel free to also use the data and evidence included below:

- **New York City's housing and affordability crises have reached a critical point.**
 - We have a vacancy rate of only 1.4%, the lowest vacancy rate in 56 years.
 - Approximately 43 percent of NYC households are rent-burdened, meaning they have to spend more than 30% of their income on rent alone.
- **For too long, some neighborhoods have been allowed to opt out of adding new housing,** and we have allowed these exclusionary housing policies to continue.
 - Last year, 10 NYC Community Districts produced as much new housing as the remaining 49 Community Districts combined.
 - Since 2021, NYC has added 275,000 households but only 60,000 units of housing.
 - New York City is building less new housing per capita than peer cities, including Houston, Seattle, San Francisco, San Jose, Miami and Washington, D.C.
- **City of Yes for Housing Opportunity is a step towards more housing in every neighborhood** through citywide zoning reforms that will allow for more housing to be built.
- **Every New Yorker deserves the opportunity to stay in their community** or find a home in the city where they can thrive for years to come.
- **The City of Yes allows us to update our outdated zoning rules** to meet current needs and be more equitable, allowing us to build more housing of every type.
- The plan will allow for more housing in low-density, moderate-density and higher-density communities **without significantly changing the neighborhoods' character.**
- **We must build more housing in every neighborhood if we want a fairer, inclusive city** – and City of Yes is a critical step to creating a New York City where we all belong.

Stay up to date on scheduled Community Board meetings!
[Click here](#) to stay connected with the Yes to Housing Coalition for updates.