



Queens County Beacon

Citizens Voices for Freedom

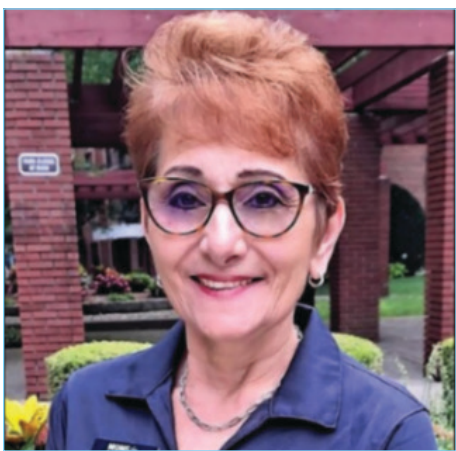
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Community Education Council Elections are Underway in NYC



By Elena Chin

With the rights as parents being trampled on as children are being indoctrinated, radicalized, sexualized, and in some cases put on a path to medicalization, it is more important than ever for parents of public-school students to take a more active role in their children's education. Beginning in January 2025, eligible parents and guardians of students currently enrolled in New York City Public schools can run for seats in 32 Community Education Councils (CECs) and 4 Citywide Education Councils in which include: the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS), the Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75), the Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE), and the Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCCELLs). Applications will be available for vacancies on a council as a CEC, Member or a Citywide Council Member, or Borough Appointees in mid-January.

32 Community Education Councils (CECs)

To run for a vacant CEC seat, you must be a parent or guardian student currently attending a NYC Public School or program funded by NYC Public Schools. The positions are voluntary. Elections are held every 2 years. CECs are made up of **12 parents**:

- 9 of the 12 are parents or guardians of Pre-K to 8 students in district schools who are elected by the parents of that district. One of the 9 parents must be the parent of a student with an IEP, and one the 9 parents must be the parents must be the parent of a student who is an English Language Learner.

- 1 of the 12 members is the parent or guardian of a District 75 (D75) student in the CECs district who is elected by the parents of students in that program/district.

- 2 of the 12 members are district or business leaders appointed by the borough president.

What do education councils do?

Under state law members are responsible for supporting their local school district to raise student achievement by:

- Provide input in the hiring of superintendents and parent coordinators and submitting the superintendent's yearly evaluation.
- Collaborate with the superintendent in assessing the impact of the district's educational programs and student progress.
- Approve zoning for new and rezoning for existing schools.

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NYC Public Schools **NYC EDUCATION COUNCILS**

on.nyc.gov/Elections2025

It's Christmas Season #4 Living With the Vaccine Mandate Let's Make This One the Last

By Diane Pagen, LMSW

Here we are ringing in 2025. Most New Yorkers think that the NYC "vaccine mandate" ended in February 2023—but for me and thousands of NYC workers unlawfully fired over not taking a Covid shot, the vaccine mandate isn't over yet.

Unvaccinated workers, mostly over age 45, have been publicly insulted on a daily basis by the former and the current mayors since 2021. They called us "selfish" on "news" shows. Some suggested we should be denied emergency room care if we ever needed it. At rallies, people sometimes spat at us, passersby held their hands over their mouth. Our careers, income and savings were taken from us. The City has always conceded that our removal was "non-disciplinary and involuntary," but yet it's almost 2025 and they still have not reinstated us.

Workers have a few things going on right now to push City bureaucrats and elected officials to do their job and get every worker reinstated. On November 20th over 250 workers sent a letter to President Trump and Vice President JD Vance outlining our struggles since being pushed out of our careers in 2021.



Workers have also been emailing, calling, giving testimony, and rallying for nearly a year for New York City Council Resolution 5 (NYC TAKE ACTION! Pass Resolution 5 – scan QR code), which calls for all fired unvaccinated workers to be reinstated. Thanks to the efforts of educators, police officers, firefighters, sanitation workers and many other workers, "Reso 5" was finally put on the Council calendar for November 19th. But the day that the vote was supposed to take place, it was suddenly removed from the calendar. On the same date, we fired off a letter to the NYC Council Members objecting

to the delay as the terminated workers continue to struggle to pay bills, take care of our families and keep our heads above water.

Therefore, the workers are asking those who read this article to help make this Christmas the last one that unvaccinated City workers spend in limbo and poverty—and the last one that NYC residents have to live with the critical staff shortages made worse by the Covid vaccine mandate firings. Go to our letter to the NYC Council Members, scan QR code, download the letter, and send it to your own Council member

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