

37th City Council District

Helal A. Sheikh (D)

Across this City, the opportunities we face are ones that a progressive society must conquer: adequate housing for all New Yorkers; a competitive business climate to create the jobs we need, and a public education system that opens doors, not closes them. As a public school teacher, I know the struggles of our education system first-hand. Our kids deserve teachers who are not strangled by bureaucracy, and forced to teach to a test. They deserve after-school programs that tutor, mentor, and instill pride in community. As a public school teacher, I can tell you that the learning that takes place after school is often as influential as the learning in the classroom. So we must be proactive in providing support and activities that foster growth and keep kids out of trouble. Family plays an important role in the success of any student, but we cannot simply leave behind the kids who lack such fundamental support. Beyond education, there are other issues. In order to ensure access to housing that is safe, stable and affordable, we should increase the number of units included in the City-sponsored Apartment Rental Lottery. I also support reducing, or at least maintaining the property tax at its current rate, and the continued amendment of the NYC Housing Maintenance Code. When it comes to jobs, I support efforts to streamline permitting processes, and adjust punitive fines. Businesses should be responsible and accountable, not immediately forced to close because of a small, honest mistake. I am running to represent this district because my family experience mirrors that of so many others in our neighborhoods. My wife and I both immigrated to New York City, and my daughters are first generation Americans. The issues facing our community are very personal for us. I bring a new vision, and a new direction. My name is Helal Sheikh. I ask for your vote.

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