

Volume 4

ESTAMOS CON STRINGER

MAKING NEW YORK CITY STRONGER FOR LATINOS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scott Stringer is ready to lead New York City out of the worst health and economic crises of our lifetime and finally root out systemic inequality that has held back our potential as a City. He knows we need bold, transformative solutions to our city's biggest challenges – and that we must lift up and center our City's hardest hit communities in our path forward.

New York City's Latino communities suffered the brunt of this pandemic, a reality built on decades of discriminatory policies – from red-lining, to institutional failures to provide language access, to the underinvestment in public hospitals – that have fueled devastating health disparities. At the height of the pandemic, Latino New Yorkers were more than twice as likely to die from the virus than other New Yorkers, often left to fend for ourselves while working on the frontlines in our grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, and taking the subways and bus to and from work. Unemployment among Latinos surged to more than 22 percent, and Latino and Hispanic-owned businesses, many of which were already struggling with onerous regulations and unfair contracts before the pandemic, were pummeled when the City shut down and tourism all but ceased to exist. The burden of these challenges have fallen hardest on Latinas, who are often the primary breadwinners and caretakers in their families. Latinas are also over-represented on the frontlines

of this pandemic, working jobs that are considered essential, earning applause from a grateful City but not the wages and benefits they need and deserve.

Still, the resiliency, ingenuity, and drive of New York City Latinos will be central to overcoming this tumultuous time.

From the Mexican community in South Brooklyn; to Puerto Rican and Dominican communities in Uptown Manhattan and the Bronx, to the Colombian community in Jackson Heights; from trans liberation and civil rights icon Silvia Rivera, to Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, to acclaimed author Julia Alvarez — there's no New York City, past or future, without Latinos, Latinas, and Latinx New Yorkers, and it's on the the next Mayor to deliver for Latinos throughout New York City.

Scott Stringer has a robust agenda to advance Latino communities in New York City. He will build a brighter future together with Latino leaders in communities across the five boroughs. He will also appoint Latino leaders to serve in the highest level of his City Hall cabinet. The following memo outlines top priorities across multiple policy-areas and was shaped with input from Latinos, Latinas, and Latinx New Yorkers and community leaders from across the five boroughs. It is a work in progress that will continue to be updated throughout Scott's campaign.

To combat the lasting impacts of the pandemic, in his first 100 days, Scott Stringer will take these immediate actions to advance New York City's Latino communities:

- 1. Your Health First: Overhaul the pandemic response and preparedness and launch the largest ever citywide outreach campaign to ensure more Latinos are enrolled in affordable insurance and access quality health care.**
- 2. Supercharge Small Business: Provide direct grants and tax credits to small, independent, and local Latino-owned businesses recovering from the pandemic and aspiring entrepreneurs to start a business in high-vacancy areas.**

- 3. A Truly Equitable Government: Appoint a citywide Chief Diversity Officer and elevate Chief Diversity Officers in every City agency to report directly to commissioners to ensure contract justice – including ensuring the City utilizes diverse supplies, institutes equitable workplace policies, ensures diverse representation across Mayoral appointments, implementing true language access across City agencies and contractors – and to accelerate the goals of Local Law 1, double spending with Latino-owned M/WBEs and ensure they actually receive City contracts.**
- 4. CUNY Opportunity: Advance free-tuition at CUNY community colleges, including for more than 38,000 Latino students, and guarantee internships for all CUNY students regardless of immigration status.**
- 5. Summer Jobs for All: Guarantee summer jobs for New York City high-school students through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), boosting employment and training opportunities for Latino youth throughout the city.**
- 6. Healthy Food in Every Neighborhood: Create a \$25 million city-based emergency food program to serve undocumented New Yorkers left out of federal and state safety net programs, and eradicate food deserts in predominately Latino neighborhoods.**
- 7. End Language Discrimination: Establish a community legal interpretive bank and language services worker-owned cooperatives, ensure every City agency has a permanent team of translators to deliver on the promise of language access, and require social service providers to have language and translation services to ensure that all New Yorkers are able to access support in the language they speak.**

- 8. ICE out of NYC: Immediately sever any and all formal and informal ties between Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the NYPD and Department of Correction, and ensure universal legal representation for all immigrant New Yorkers when facing deportation.**

Scott Stringer's agenda to make New York City stronger and fairer, and open new opportunities for Latinos is separated into five sections:

PART I: Addressing disparities in our healthcare system by expanding healthcare access in Latino communities

PART II: Bringing Latino communities forward from the pandemic and economic recession with major programs to jumpstart the economy and Latino businesses

PART III: Leveling the playing field for our next generation by investing in children of all ages from birth to graduation, and preparing students for 21st Century jobs

PART IV: Making every neighborhood affordable and ending the displacement crisis

PART V: Building safety across the five boroughs and delivering justice to immigrant communities

PART I: Scott will address disparities in our healthcare system which enabled the pandemic to devastate communities of color, most especially Latinos who shouldered the crisis on the frontline as essential workers and suffered the greatest number of COVID-19 related deaths thus far, as well as significant hurdles in getting the vaccine due to lack of sites and language access.¹

- 1. Overhaul pandemic response and preparedness, including a dedicated emergency language access effort.** It's unacceptable that as of March 11, 2021, just 17 percent of vaccine doses administered have gone to Latinos, even though Latinos make up 29 percent of the City's population.² As Mayor, Scott would build on his FairShotNYC plan and ramp up sites and outreach into predominantly Latino communities to ensure vaccines are distributed equitably and effectively. Scott will also overhaul our health system to make sure we are better prepared for the next public health crisis by strengthening disease tracking and surveillance systems, expanding emergency stockpiles, enhancing trust of healthcare providers in marginalized communities, and ensuring that all emergency responses have a dedicated plan for language justice and eliminate hurdles faced by New Yorkers with limited English-language proficiency.
- 2. Fortify our public health infrastructure and launch an outreach campaign to expand Latino New Yorkers' access to health care.** According to City data, 22 percent of Latinos, including more than half of Mexican New Yorkers, do not have access to health insurance, and are less likely than others to have access to primary care.³ Among Scott's proposals to fortify a world-class public health system in New York, Scott will launch the largest ever citywide outreach campaign to ensure more Latinos are enrolled in affordable insurance and access quality health care. Scott will also improve coordination between our public health and public hospital systems, expand access to primary and affordable care by prioritizing the construction, refurbishment, or renovation of primary care facilities in all underserved neighborhoods, and

accelerate telehealth innovation. And, he'll fight for Albany to allocate millions to the state-funded Essential Plan to ensure health care access to New Yorkers in need, regardless of immigrant status (Rivera | A1585 Gottfried), and for the New York Health Act.

- 3. Address root causes of health disparities and environmental racism.** Scott will close health disparities laid bare by the pandemic by ensuring every neighborhood has quality affordable housing, transportation, clean air and water, and healthy food. For example, Scott's climate plan will slash air pollution and cut rates of asthma, benefiting Latino New Yorkers who are three-times as likely to seek emergency room treatment for asthma-related breathing complications.⁴ As Mayor, Scott will launch initiatives to bring fresh food into every neighborhood to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for the 56 percent of Latinos who do not have ready-access near their homes.⁵

PART II: Scott will bring Latino communities forward from this pandemic and economic recession with major programs to get Latino-owned and other small businesses back on their feet, jumpstart our economy, and invest in workforce development – including shoring up worker rights.

- 4. Jumpstart a recovery for Latino-owned Small Businesses.** From Dyckman Street in Washington Heights, to Myrtle Avenue in Bushwick, to Roosevelt Avenue in Queens – New York City's iconic commercial corridors rely on the strength of Latino-owned businesses, but the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt them all a devastating blow. One third of all small businesses may be forced to close due to COVID-19, and Latino- and Hispanic-owned businesses faced steep hurdles before the pandemic locked our economy down.⁶

Scott's plan to Save Main Street will breathe life into major business corridors, cut red tape for small businesses, and get Latino New Yorkers back in business. His plan includes the following initiatives:

- **Create an NYC Door-to-Door Multi-Lingual Outreach Team** to help small business owners access government relief programs and maneuver the re-opening process.
- **Help independent businesses reopen** with direct grants and tax credits to cover re-opening costs, and new tax incentives for entrepreneurs in high-vacancy retail corridors. And support a bill introduced by Assemblymember Catalina Cruz (A02231/S03596) to establish the COVID-19 recovery local employment tax credit program, which will provide tax incentives to employers for hiring local workers in full-time or part-time positions who lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic.
- **Allow businesses a “cure period”** to address and fix violations, rather than fining businesses immediately, and create a NYC Tech Corps to help small businesses adopt digital tools and develop an online presence.
- **Cut red-tape, lower costs, and ease permitting restrictions** including allowing SNAP benefits to be used at local New York City restaurants, and expanding SNAP terminals at bodegas, and green carts, and permanently capping the fees charged by third-party delivery companies.
- **Extend the moratorium on commercial evictions** and provide legal assistance to businesses involved in legal disputes.
- **Help immigrant entrepreneurs scale up.** More than 60 percent of independent, Main Street businesses are run by immigrant New Yorkers and more than 53 percent of the workforce is foreign-born. Scott will mobilize Small Business Services to support marketing, promotion, and translation services to help Latino and immigrant-owned businesses reach new customers beyond their immediate neighborhood and pilot a new program to help proven, successful entrepreneurs open second businesses throughout

the city, expediting permitting and helping with the costs of modifying these new spaces.

5. Invest City dollars in Latino-owned M/WBEs and empower the Chief

Diversity Officer to launch a new generation of Local Law 1. Over the last seven years as Comptroller, Scott has always been a thorn in the side of City Hall for their failure to put the City's dollars to work to boost up minority- and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs). One of Scott's first acts as Comptroller was to appoint a Chief Diversity Officer – the first-ever in New York City government – charged with evaluating and improving the City's M/WBE contracting and spending with M/WBEs every year. Between 2013 and 2020, Scott has overseen an increase in M/WBE spending at the Comptroller's office from 13 percent to 50 percent – yet overall the City spent only 5 percent of its more than \$20 billion procurement budget with M/WBEs.

As Mayor, Scott will expand on his track-record of standing up for M/WBEs, appoint a Chief Diversity Officer reporting directly to the Mayor to hold the City and its agencies accountable to its goals – including ensuring the City utilizes diverse supplies, institutes equitable workplace policies, ensures diverse representation across Mayoral appointments, implementing true language access across City agencies and contractors – and launches a new generation of the City's Local Law 1 M/WBE program, with a goal of doubling spend with Latino-owned M/WBEs.

- 6. Bolster and Defend Latino Workers' Rights.** Nationwide gaps in paid sick leave, healthcare benefits, and living wages- coupled with the growth of monopolies and attacks against organized labor have set a broken foundation that has allowed frontline workers, the majority of whom are people of color, to fall further and further through the cracks. Workers are under threat, battling not only the pandemic, but also exploitation by big corporations and a failure of the Federal government to defend and strengthen labor laws. As Mayor, Scott will aggressively support the strengthening of labor laws and

mobilize the full force of the City government to enforce them and defend the rights of workers across the five boroughs. Among actions Scott would take as Mayor, he will:

- **Support marginalized workers.** Scott will defend and expand protections for workers in gig and app-based work, among other creative, contract, freelance, and independent workers. According to a 2019 survey, approximately 40 percent of Latino adults in the United States have done gig work of some sort.⁷ Scott will fight to expand unemployment, healthcare, and all safety net programs to all workers. Gig work can open new opportunities and provide flexibility for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, but workers must be afforded strong protections to prevent exploitation. As Mayor, Scott will strictly enforce laws designed to protect workers and punish bad actors.
- **Combat wage theft.** As Comptroller, one of Scott's jobs has been to enforce our prevailing wage laws. Scott has spent more than seven years fiercely defending workers who have had their wages stolen by unscrupulous employers — including many Latino and immigrant workers — to the tune of more than \$30 million assessed and \$15 million returned to workers.⁸ As Mayor, Scott will continue to fight against wage theft by ramping up enforcement, and going to Albany to work with Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz to pass her bill making wage theft a crime, akin to larceny.⁹ Moreover, Scott will advance equal pay, particularly for Latina workers who face the largest gender and racial wage gap among women living in New York,¹⁰ by aggressively pursuing policies that lift pay and ensure anti-discriminatory hiring practices.
- **Expand professional certification to all.** As Mayor, Scott will partner with State Senate Gustavo Rivera and Assemblymember Catalina Cruz to pass the EMPIRE State Licensing Act (S3046 | A1952), to ensure all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, are able to receive professional, occupational, commercial, or business licenses, permits, certificates, and registrations. Combined with making CUNY community

colleges free for all, Scott will make sure all New Yorkers have access to the education and professional development opportunities they need to climb the economic ladder.

- **Shore up a safety net for undocumented workers.** Our government's longstanding refusal to invest in undocumented individuals and their families must come to an end. In the early days of the pandemic, Scott's office detailed how some 19 percent of city frontline workers are non-citizens – yet none of them are eligible for federal benefits under the Unemployment Insurance System or the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. As Mayor, Scott will work to create an excluded workers fund so that anyone who files taxes with an individual taxpayer number (ITIN) qualifies for safety net programs, and Scott would create a \$25 million emergency food fund to serve undocumented New Yorkers excluded from State and Federal assistance.
7. **Create a pipeline for Latinos to access tens-of-thousands of Green New Deal jobs.** Scott will create tens of thousands of good-paying local jobs with a Green New Deal for New York – and ensure a just job transition for impacted workers, people who lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic, and communities that have suffered the most from environmental injustice. Scott will establish a labor and workforce training pipeline that helps Latino workers acquire the necessary skills to be placed in both private sector and public sector green jobs – including those who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. A central part of this pipeline will include green programs offered at CUNY community colleges (where nearly 40 percent of the student population is Latino), and which, under a Stringer administration would be tuition free. Through CUNY, Scott will connect Latino students to career, STEM, and technical programs linked to the Green New Deal. Scott will help Latino entrepreneurs launch green start-ups with support from the Economic Development Corporation.

As Mayor, Scott will also create a local “network coordinator” to serve as a point person in every neighborhood who will strengthen the pipeline between local businesses and residents to support connect local New Yorkers with local jobs, especially in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods like Bushwick, Jackson Heights, Washington Heights, and the South Bronx.

PART III: Scott will launch new programs to level the playing field for our next generation by investing in our children aged 0-to-3, and post-graduation. As the father of two children in city elementary schools, the proud son of a late City school teacher, and a graduate of New York City public schools and CUNY, Scott knows first-hand the challenges facing our city’s schools and is deeply committed to integrating our schools and closing persistent achievement gaps through deep investments at every level.

8. Make high-quality child care affordable for Latino families and raise wages for Latina workers. Scott’s “NYC Under 3” plan to put the city on a path to universal affordable child care would dramatically increase child care assistance to all working families with children under 3, regardless of their immigration status, and expand eligibility requirements to serve families making up to \$100,000 per year. It would triple the number of infants and toddlers in City-backed care and sharply reduce child care costs for as many as 70,000 working families, making child care affordable for tens of thousands of Latino families.

To do so, Scott will invest \$500 million over five years to eradicate child care “deserts” in neighborhoods like Bushwick and Sunnyside where child care options are few and far between by building and repairing child care facilities across the city. Scott’s plan will boost wages for early childhood educators, 42 percent of whom are Latina, to a living wage by meaningfully investing in training, professional development, scholarships, and increased compensation for the workforce.¹¹

9. Support the New Deal for CUNY, make CUNY community colleges free and prepare Latino youth for the jobs of tomorrow. With its 25 campuses across all five boroughs, the City University of New York (CUNY) system must serve as an engine of economic mobility for our city, lifting up its 275,000 students of whom roughly 30 percent identify as Latino or Hispanic.¹² As part of Scott’s larger education and workforce development agenda, he will work to make CUNY community colleges free for all at a cost of approximately \$135 million per year, with a goal of making all CUNY tuition-free.

Additionally, as Mayor, Scott will invest in CUNY’s Accelerated Study in Associates Programs (ASAP) which currently serve roughly 25,000 students, including many in STEM fields, and guarantee ASAP programming to all full-time students enrolled in two-year associate degree programs at CUNY colleges—at a cost of approximately \$100 million.

Further, Scott will organize paid internships for all CUNY graduating seniors to help students bridge the gap between college and career; dramatically increase investments in Career and Technical Education, early-college programs, and College Now in DOE schools; strengthen partnerships with private industry to upskill New Yorkers, improve career pathways, and expand apprenticeship opportunities — particularly in green tech industries; and invest in bridge programs that help connect language education to job training and opportunities.

10. Advance educational equity and diversity in our schools, and support Latino students. As Mayor, Scott will:

- **End the use of geographic admissions criteria which have been proven to contribute to increased segregation in our system overall**, and fight to repeal the state’s 1971 Hecht-Calandra Act to eliminate the SHSAT. Scott would use State math and reading scores as a basis for admissions to specialized

high schools, and distribute a percentage of all slots to high performers in every district to help drive diversity.

- **Invest in great classroom instruction through teacher mentorship and professional development, and recruit more Latino teachers.** Citywide, roughly 17 percent of teachers identify as Latino or Hispanic, compared to some 40 percent of public school students.¹³ Research shows that teachers of color boost the academic performance of students of color, including raising reading and math scores and increasing graduation rates.¹⁴ Scott's plan to launch the largest teacher residency program in the country to prepare teachers for the profession and reduce turnover would recruit 1,000 aspiring teachers each year to work in the classroom alongside an accomplished mentor teacher, with an emphasis on recruiting young teachers of color. By providing stipends for trainee teachers to cover living expenses during the year of residency, allowing them to focus on their training without debt or a second job, and leverage already excellent teacher preparation programs at CUNY and SUNY Scott's plan will lower barriers for teachers of color to get into the public school pipeline.
- **Ensure every student has a full-time, mental health professional in their school, including social workers and guidance counsellors,** and make sure all school staff are trained to guide behavioral interventions, respond to crisis events in a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive way, and work one-on-one with students as needed.
- **Ensure that every child receives high-quality arts, physical, and health education,** a requirement of State law that goes unmet by the City, particularly in schools predominately attended by Latino students.

- **Close learning and graduation gaps for Multilingual and English Language Learners (MLL/ELL)** by resourcing culturally competent and specialized training for teachers, investing in free and affordable in-school tutorial services, and prioritizing school-family engagement to ensure students' unique needs are met.
 - **Expand free afterschool offerings to all Latino children and students.** As students turn to school full-time after a year of mainly digital and remote learning, Scott will invest in deeply enriching, high-quality, and healthy afterschool programs to get our kids moving, applying their learning, and building career opportunities – and Scott will ensure there is afterschool for every child K-8. To do so, Scott will work with the City's rich network of community based organizations and provide a micro-credentialing program through CUNY can help build the skills of these workers and create good-paying jobs.
 - **End the digital divide for Latino students with free, high-speed internet service for every child.** Over 100,000 New York City public school students live in households without access to the internet.¹⁵And lack of internet access is particularly prevalent in neighborhoods like Sunset Park in Brooklyn and in Elmhurst/Corona in Queens.¹⁶As Mayor, Scott will eliminate this digital divide by subsidizing “internet passports” to make broadband free for families in-need, providing every student in-need with an electronic device, and establishing a culturally competent and language accessible “Help Desk” to ensure students and families are able to use their devices effectively.
- 11. Increase career exploration, paid internships, and youth employment opportunities for all high school students.** Scott will implement programs to connect more Latino high-school students with paid internships, ensure our schools have dedicated staff to support student workers and professional development, and establish a summer jobs guarantee for all New York City

high school students through a massive expansion of the Summer Youth Employment Program.

12. Increase Opportunities for DACA Recipients and Undocumented Youth.

As Mayor, Scott will work to remove work authorization requirements from job training programs so that all City students, regardless of immigration status can participate. Additionally, he'll significantly increase funding for and expand access to college access programs.

13. Invest in Adult literacy. According to a 2017 report by the New York City Department of Health, approximately 15 percent of US-born Latino New Yorkers reported having limited English proficiency, compared with 68 percent of NYC Latinos born outside of the US¹⁷. As Mayor, Scott will invest heavily in adult education, specifically for adult literacy and English Language Learners, ensure that literacy programs incorporate know-your-rights information for deeper civic engagement and empowerment, and expand CUNY-run “Bridge Programs” that connect English Language Learners with workforce development and career opportunities.

PART IV: Scott will take on our affordable housing crisis by launching a new generation of social housing, working to end homelessness, ending displacement and gentrifying rezonings, and making New York City more affordable for working people – not wealthy real estate developers.

14. Make every neighborhood affordable. Forty-four percent of Latinos in New York City are rent burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent.¹⁸ In Washington Heights, where Scott grew up, rents have soared 37 percent between 2010 and 2018.¹⁹ Latino communities have been on the frontlines of the City's housing affordability crisis, and as Mayor, Scott will change that paradigm by mandating Universal Affordable Housing so that every new large development will set 25 percent of units aside for

low- and very-low income families. Scott's plan will ensure that every neighborhood has affordable housing that's truly affordable for working New Yorkers and tenants and communities from East New York to Inwood are empowered to fight off displacement, gentrification, and real estate speculation.

15. Build tens of thousands of new affordable housing units and work to end homelessness. In addition, Scott will leverage the City's stock of nearly 3,000 vacant lots to build 40,000 new units of deeply affordable housing set aside for the New Yorkers most in-need, expand the value and use of City vouchers to support New Yorkers experiencing homelessness, convert permanently vacant office buildings and hotels into supportive and affordable housing, and tackle other drivers of homelessness like domestic violence with creative and bold solutions.

16. Promote and protect Latino homeownership, and support small landlords.

As Mayor, Scott will invest in homeownership to end lending discrimination against Latino and Black homebuyers and make homeownership more affordable with expanded financial assistance for down-payments, purchases, and repairs. Black and Latino New Yorkers are being increasingly locked out of homeownership in New York City — while 29 percent of New Yorkers are Hispanic, just 7.9 percent of loans go to Hispanic borrowers.²⁰ Scott will also fight real estate speculation and allow homeowners to rent out accessory dwelling units such as basement apartments to help keep New Yorkers in their homes, and create a new financial assistance program to assist small landlords and non-profit organizations who work to prevent evictions.

17. Fund NYCHA repairs. As Comptroller, Scott has audited NYCHA more than 15 times, investigating the root causes of leaking roofs, busted elevators, lead paint and toxic mold, to name a few. In City Hall, Scott will fund emergency repairs with a \$1.5 billion annual capital commitment from the City and

by rerouting hundreds of millions in revenue from the Battery Park City Authority, reform NYCHA's dysfunctional operations, build a new system to track and manage maintenance issues, and ensure that NYCHA tenants — over half of whom are Latino and Hispanic — have a true voice in the future of public housing.²¹

PART V: Scott will protect immigrant communities and invest in community safety so that public health is at the center of public safety — and justice entails making our communities safer, healthier, and more stable. Scott's immigrant justice and public safety agenda includes:

18. Reimagine public safety. To keep all New Yorkers truly safe, we must confront and end the structural racism embedded in our criminal legal system and act decisively and creatively to stem the recent uptick in violence.

Scott has a multi-agency vision for public safety, including expanding alternative community-led responses and services for issues of mental health, homelessness and substance use; granting amnesty for low-level offenses; pursuing a strategy to Close Rikers and lower the number of currently incarcerated New Yorkers. For example, Scott will work with the City Council to decriminalize jaywalking, an offense disproportionately and arbitrarily enforced against Black and Latino New Yorkers (a recent analysis found that 89 percent of summonses issues for for walking against a traffic light or crossing mid-block went to Black or Latino New Yorkers, who make up just 55 percent of the city's population).²²²³

In addition, Scott's plan will increase the City's effectiveness in stopping serious and violent crime; stem the flow of guns into the city from out-of-state; improve accountability and oversight of the NYPD; and reinvest police dollars into communities. Under Scott's leadership, the Comptroller's Office has issued a detailed blueprint to transform our approach to public safety.

19. Delivering the promise of sanctuary: New York City was built, brick by brick, by immigrants from around the world, particularly Latino New Yorkers and undocumented New Yorkers. While New York City is a sanctuary city, it has failed to adequately to protect undocumented New Yorkers who have been under attack by an emboldened immigration and detention system. Scott's office found that deportations by ICE officers in New York City spiked 150 percent between 2016 and 2018; with New Yorkers from Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic among those most represented in proceedings.²⁴ As Mayor, Scott will fearlessly strengthen New York City's sanctuary status and will:

- **Fight for a full deportation moratorium and to dismantle ICE.** This will be the broadest and most powerful way to limit ICE's negative impact on our communities.
- **Sever ties between ICE and the NYPD.** In New York, Sanctuary City laws forbid local law enforcement from detaining individuals on behalf of ICE, providing information on immigration status, or cooperating with ICE more generally. And yet, while these restrictions are among the strongest in the nation on paper, there are still a number of formal and informal ways that ICE and local law enforcement interact. As Mayor, Scott will ensure these nexus points are eliminated by disregarding administration warrants that originate from ICE, and actively curtail efforts by ICE officers to impersonate local law enforcement.
- **End the prison-to-deportation pipeline.** Scott will work to decriminalize offenses and roll back numerous police responsibilities to will help to keep residents out of handcuffs, courts, and jails, reduce the fingerprinting that can wind itself into ICE databases, and protect undocumented New Yorkers.

- **Expand legal services for immigrants and guarantee a universal right to counsel.** Under a Stringer Administration, all immigrants — no matter their background — will be entitled to due process rights because it's simply the right thing to do. The City would provide truly universal representation for individuals in immigration proceedings by expanding existing funding for legal services and eliminating the current carve-out that restricts some immigrants from accessing City-funded legal services. Scott would continue to support the operation of the New York Immigrant Freedom Fund to help pay bond for those detained during immigration proceedings.
- **Fight private prisons.** As Comptroller, Scott led the New York City Pension Funds to become the [first in the nation](#) to divest from private prisons — companies that rake in profits by locking people up, including migrant children, and cash in on the human misery they create. Scott's history-making divestment has started a movement, and as Mayor, he will continue to push more cities and states across the nation to divest their holdings from this immoral industry.

20. Revolutionize Language Access: Language access remains a persistent problem within City agencies and it ultimately limits access to City services for Latinos, particularly seniors, immigrants, those without English-language proficiency. As Mayor, Scott will launch a comprehensive review across all city agencies to identify gaps in translation services and ensure that rules, regulations, inspections, appeals, applications, and services are provided in multiple languages. Scott will take his precedent-setting Office of the Chief Diversity Officer (CDOs) citywide, and charge agency CDOs to prioritize language justice and hold agencies accountable for reaching all of New York's diverse communities.

As Mayor, Scott will ensure every City agency has a permanent team of translators sourcing from community-led organization already familiar with implementing direct services to deliver on the promise of language access, and require social service providers to have language and translation services to ensure that all New Yorkers are able to access support in the language they speak.

Scott will also work to establish a community legal interpretive bank and language services worker-owned cooperatives for languages of limited diffusion – including indigenous languages – as proposed by the New York Immigration Coalition, African Community Together, Asian American Federation and the Mexican American Students' Alliance.

21. Expand voting rights to non-citizen residents. Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers from countries like the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ecuador, and Colombia – many who have lived in New York for decades – do not have voting rights because of their immigration status.²⁵ As Mayor, Scott will extend voting rights in municipal elections to nearly 1 million New Yorkers with green cards or work authorizations, and will institute a series of election reforms to make voting easier for everyone.

22. Launch a New York City Citizenship Fund. As Mayor, Scott will fund the first-ever New York City Citizenship Fund through the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to help tens of thousands of immigrants cover the skyrocketing costs of the federal application to become a U.S. citizen, helping thousands of Latino immigrants who are eligible and interested in naturalizing to afford the costs. Additionally, Scott will provide free application assistance by expanding the CUNY Citizenship Now Program and guarantee 10 hours of civics classes to eligible applicants, to help New Yorkers prepare for the test.

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Endnotes

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