

TECHMUNC 2025

# MAYORAL CIVIL WAR

## BACKGROUND GUIDE



## **Letters from the Dias**

### **Chair: Emma Hannemann**

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the TechMUNC 2026 New York Mayoral Civil War 2025 crisis committee! My name is Emma Hannemann, and I will be your chair for the committee. I am a sophomore and have only done two years of Model UN, and this is my first time chairing. Model UN has helped so much with my public speaking and my ability to research and write, and I hope it will eventually do the same for you, and that you use this conference to not only have fun but to further your research, writing, and speaking skills as well as your knowledge of the topic. We had a lot of fun planning this committee, and we hope you will have as much (if not more) fun doing it. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [emmah92@nycstudents.net](mailto:emmah92@nycstudents.net) or [ehannemann0142@bths.edu](mailto:ehannemann0142@bths.edu). I look forward to seeing you all at TechMUNC 2026!

- Emma

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### **Rapporteur: Hope Yuan**

Hello delegates,

Welcome to the TechMUNC 2026 New York Mayoral Civil War 2025 crisis committee! My name is Hope Yuan, and I will be your rapporteur for this committee. I am currently in my sophomore year, as well as my second year in Model UN. This will be my first time being one of the heads of the committee, and I'm so beyond excited for this conference with all of you. Model UN has helped me so much with my public speaking

and research skills, and helped me meet so many amazing people. We have thoroughly enjoyed the journey of picking out our committee topic and planning this conference, and we hope that you will enjoy participating. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the heads of the committee, and we will be happy to help. I can't wait to see you all, and I wish you the best of luck during the tumultuous period of this Civil War.

- Hope Yuan

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### **Head of Backrooms: Alexander Yeloyev**

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the TechMUNC 2026 New York Mayoral Civil War Crisis 2025 Committee! My name is Alexander Yeloyev, and I will be the head of the backrooms for this committee. I am a freshman, in my first year of Model UN, and words cannot express how much it means to me to play such a significant role in this conference. Although I joined Model UN because I thought it would be an easy way to earn club credits, I couldn't have realized how much it would teach me; from public speaking, leadership, efficient researching, to how important it is to BUY SUITS. Our team is very excited to see where this committee goes, and we hope you find it as fun as we did. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to email me at [ayeloyev2226@bths.edu](mailto:ayeloyev2226@bths.edu). Good luck, delegates, and I look forward to seeing you this January.

- Alex

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# **Introduction**

It is currently the year 2025, and New York City, a place known for its constant changes and motion, has been thrown into complete chaos. After a bitter mayoral election with highly opposing sides, Zohran Mamdani was declared the winner.

However, many people have opinions to share and refuse to accept this result.

Beginning as simple protests and political arguments, this quickly rose into violence and organized resistance. Once close neighborhoods begin to choose sides, the police forces are divided, and historically strong alliances across the city are falling apart. Not only that, national political figures, influential celebrities, business leaders, and the citizens of New York have embedded themselves into this conflict, each throwing out ideas and suggestions for their vision of the city. In this crisis committee, you've all been invited to tackle the rapidly evolving conflict that may eventually destroy our beautiful city. As New York edges closer to the brink of civil war, you all must navigate through competing viewpoints, shifting alliances, and unpredictable events to determine its fate. Regardless of whether you choose to restore stability, propose radical changes, or take advantage of the chaos to seize control, the future of our city is now in your hands. Good luck, and may New York reach everlasting peace.

## **Topic History**

New York City's political picture had been growing more and more split for over a decade before the 2025 mayoral election. Throughout the 2010s and early 2020s, debates over policing, affordability of housing, public safety, and economic inequality became central issues that combined to divide the city. The administrations of Bill de Blasio and Eric Adams are an exemplary reflection of this split. De Blasio placed an emphasis on progressive reforms, but Adams took on a more balanced and safe approach. However, both approaches left certain parts of the population feeling as if their opinions went unheard, which in turn deepened the political frustration.

By the early 2020s, the city is facing rising housing costs, public wariness of law enforcement institutions, and a widening social gap between the elites and the working-class neighborhoods. Borough leaders, such as Mark Levine, Vanessa Gibson, Donovan Richards, and Antonio Reynoso, frequently disagreed over certain aspects, such as how to fairly distribute resources, manage developments, and address public safety. These disagreements created political “fault lines” between boroughs, which would later morph to becoming the major dividing line in this conflict.

Meanwhile, national and state politics are intensifying tensions at the local level. Former Governor Andrew Cuomo remained a polarizing figure even after leaving office, and Governor Kathy Hochul struggled to unite the moderate and progressive sides across New York State. These statewide divisions have influenced city politics, thus encouraging political figures to form their own local alliances of support. Activists, such as Curtis Sliwa, continued their grassroots movements and built networks, especially in conservative neighborhoods. Simultaneously, progressive organizations are extremely

avored in boroughs such as Brooklyn and Queens, which provide support for emerging leaders like Zohran Mamdani.

As the 2025 election slowly approached, New York City experienced one of its most ideologically divided periods in recent history. Mamdani's campaign attracted the interest of liberal voters, utilizing promises of aggressive housing legislation, police surveillance, and the restructuring of city budgets. On the other hand, conservatives and police unions under leaders like Patrick Hendry and real estate interests represented by figures such as Rachel Loeb were wary and warned that Mamdani's proposals threatened economic stability and public safety. Powerbrokers such as Michael J. LiPetri, Vito Fossella, and Brad Lander each tried to shape public opinion within their own political views.

The election itself was extremely close. This led to allegations of voter suppression, miscounted ballots, foreign influence, and a biased media to circulate widely, starting even before polls closed. When Mamdani was declared the winner, many of his opponents refused to accept the results and claimed that the election had been mishandled or manipulated. Supporters saw these claims as an attempt to undermine democracy. In contrast, opponents viewed their resistance as a defense of the city's future.

With no proper consensus on the legitimacy of the outcome, long-standing political tensions that have been waiting to erupt finally broke open. Rival networks of politicians, activists, borough governments, and police quickly aligned into competing groups. What simply began as a political disagreement soon escalated into organized resistance, violence, and ultimately the 2025 Mayoral Election Civil War.

## **Current Situation**

As the New York City mayoral election adjourns with democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani taking the lead with 50.4 percent of the votes, New York City must learn how to adjust to a new generation of leadership with new, radical ideas. However, not all New Yorkers and government members are happy with the change in leadership. As Mamdani's transition period officially begins, tensions boil between the US government, former and current leaders of New York City, as well as between the different boroughs. This turbulent climate requires all delegates' urgent attention in order to prevent the destruction of New York City.

On the 5th of November 2025, Zohran Mamdani won the New York City mayoral election, with the most votes from Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens. On the 6th of November, elected officials in New York refused to accept Mamdani as mayor, claiming that he was an illegal immigrant who had rigged the election. Protesters on both sides swarmed the streets, and without proper leadership, New York fell into chaos. Neighborhoods are arming themselves against each other, and police forces are quickly turning into a ragtag military. The US government is considering drastic measures, deployment of the national guard, or a blockade of supplies, being the two most supported options.

The party of the democratic socialists, as they have begun to call themselves, insists that an investigation into a rigged election would be a violation of democracy. While Mamdani is displeased with public defamation by high-ranking government officials, he has stated that he 'Wishes to explore all options to bring the greatest peace to New York, and ultimately, to New Yorkers.' These statements, however, have not



settled the party of the democratic socialists, who call for the impeachment of any and all government officials who do not immediately reject this course of action. Those who vote for Mamdani have not completely unfounded confidence that if he is not sworn into office immediately, he will never become mayor of NYC.

The independents do not agree with the more extreme ideas of the democratic socialists; however, they also believe that an investigation into the election of the mayor would do nothing besides prevent the city from functioning to its highest efficiency levels. While independents attempt to settle the growing tensions between the boroughs, the lack of decisive leadership in the city has left the buses, subways, police, and firefighters mainly inaccessible or unusable. Without being able to get to work, NYC's economy is shutting down fast, and the consequences of more days without leadership could be drastic.

Many members of the republican party endorse the investigation into Mamdani's election, and furthermore completely oppose the Party of democratic socialists, stating that to impeach all those who did not oppose the investigation would be an obstruction of justice.

While members of all parties are in chaos in the streets, people have begun to riot. What started as simple protests from all sides quickly blew into a cold war, with neighborhoods being divided by voting lines. As tensions grow between the neighborhoods and boroughs, people stockpile food, water, and weapons, each fearing what the opposing side might be willing to do to get their way. Blockades of protesters and cars make emergency services slow and unreliable, only furthering the tensions.



## **Questions to Consider:**

- How would the future leader of NYC's current policies align with yours?
- How might government funding of NYC change?
- Which, if any, of the mayoral candidates does your delegation align with the most?
- Could the investigation of the election result be an obstruction of justice?
- How will the lack of decisive action affect the livelihoods of all those who work in NYC or have business based in NYC?

# **Delegate Positions**

**Ainsley Earhardt:** Ainsley Earhardt is a conservative political commentator for Fox News, which has its headquarters based in NYC. Like other conservative members, like Gerard Kassir, she does not agree with either candidate's rise to power as mayor. Although she has used her platform to consistently criticize Mamdani, she might lean more towards Cuomo. She holds sway over many conservative voters within NYC. How might she affect this rise of violence in NYC?

**Alvin Bragg:** Alvin Bragg is the District Attorney of New York. He is in charge of prosecuting crimes from the petty to the federal level. Due to the uptick in violence and riots in New York City, the legal system has been swamped with numerous cases, slowing it down. It is within Alvin Bragg's best interest to restore peace as soon as possible to bring back stability.

**Andrew Cuomo:** Andrew Cuomo is a member of the Democratic Party who ran as an independent in the NYC mayoral election and was runner-up to Zohran Mamdani. Cuomo was born and raised in an Italian-American family in Queens, later serving as governor of New York State. He intends to reform NYC public schools, finance the cost of living, ensure public safety, and more. With NYC's growing chaos, Cuomo is strongly against Mamdani and blames his mayoral loss on the second runner-up, Curtis Sliwa, for not dropping out of the race.

**Antonio Reynoso:** Antonio Reynoso is the 20th Borough President of Brooklyn and is part of the Democratic Party. Before this, Reynoso previously served as a member of the City Council and was later elected Borough President of Brooklyn in November 2021. He has worked to help maternal health, support the artists of Brooklyn, and fund housing for the less fortunate. Reynoso endorsed Mamdani for the 2025 mayoral elections and continues to support him. But, with the diverse political views that Brooklyn holds, where will Reynoso stand, and what will he do to keep his borough in place?

**Bill Ackman:** Bill Ackman is a billionaire hedge fund manager of Pershing Square Capital Management. He endorsed Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election and was a large supporter of Cuomo in the 2025 mayoral elections. He was alleged to be bankrolling Super PACs to stop Mamdani. As the city descends into chaos, how might he react as stock prices fall due to violence? Will he veer towards whichever candidate brings peace?

**Brad Lander:** Brad Lander is the Comptroller of NYC who ran in the mayoral primaries as part of the democratic party. He is a large supporter of Mamdani, and they

cross-endorsed each other in the ranked voting system. He is appalled by the breakout of riots across NYC, and wants to see the stability brought back as soon as possible. How will he navigate the political minefield alongside Mamdani to restore peace?

Curtis Sliwa: Curtis Sliwa was the Republican nominee for the NYC mayoral elections twice, placing second in 2021 and third in 2025. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Sliwa, at 24 years old, founded the Guardian Angels, an organization that targets public safety and rising crime. He aims to boost the economy, reform carceral systems, and restore integrity across NYC. While Sliwa stands with his fellow Republicans and their responses to the elections, he must make an effort to support the opposition while promoting safety from the Guardian Angels.

David Solomon: David Solomon is the CEO of the multinational investment banking company, Goldman Sachs. He is the definition of what it means to be a financial giant, handling stocks, company mergers, and wealth management. Although he is publicly non-partisan, he has benefited massively under the Trump Administration due to tax cuts, and most likely leans favorably towards Andrew Cuomo, as Mamdani's higher taxes on the rich would be detrimental to his company. Still, in this time of crisis, towards which side will he sway?

Donovan Richards: Donovan Richards is the 21st Borough President of Queens and is part of the Democratic Party. Richards was elected to serve as a member of the City Council in 2013 for Southeast Queens and later as Borough President in November 2020. Throughout this time, Richards has provided millions in funding for Queens' schools, hospitals, parks, and more. Later, he also endorsed Mamdani for the mayoral elections. What will he do with his funds to protect the Borough of Queens and the city as a whole?

Eric Adams: Eric Adams is the 110th mayor of New York City and a member of the Democratic Party, having won the 2021 NYC Mayoral Election against Curtis Sliwa. Adams has also stated that he endorses Andrew Cuomo for NYC Mayor. Formerly an NYPD captain, State Senator, and Brooklyn Borough President, Adams has fought to improve public safety and reduce inequality during his time as mayor, which soon came to an end. But, as the sudden destruction and segregation of the city has unfolded, Adams must find a way to align with his fellow Democrats while holding the city he once managed in order.

Frank Morano: Frank Morano is a New York City Council for District 51. He represents Staten Island-based neighborhoods such as New Springville, Charleston, Willowbrook, etc. He is a lifelong Staten Islander, winning 3 elections in a row and maintaining large public support from Staten Islanders. Rather than supporting Cuomo or Mamdani, he

endorsed Sliwa instead. Will he continue to garner support for Sliwa in Staten Island, the heartland of the current riots?

Gerard Kassar: Gerard Kassar is the current head of New York's Conservative Party. He has assumed his role since 2019 and holds sway over many conservative voters. Like other conservative members, like Ainsley Earhardt, he supports neither mayoral candidates rising to power. However, he will continue to align with less socialist members of the democratic party like Cuomo over someone like Mamdani. How might his influence shape NYC in this time of crisis?

Joann Ariola: Joann Ariola is the Minority Leader of the Republican Delegation in the New York City Council for District 23. She represents Queens-based neighborhoods such as Glendale, Forest Park, Woodhaven, etc. It is unclear who she supported in the 2025 mayoral elections, but representing small pockets of the republican party in Queens, how might she react to the partisan divide and riots?

Jordan Belfort: Jordan Belfort, regarded as The Wolf of Wall Street, is a former American stockbroker who defrauded hundreds of millions of dollars from investors. Belfort was born in The Bronx, New York, and later, in 1989, founded a brokerage firm that scammed investors. In 1998, Belfort was arrested and served in prison for 22 months before being released. He wrote a memoir about his experience and was famously portrayed by filmmakers in The Wolf of Wall Street. Belfort is now an entrepreneur, author, and public speaker who is part of the Republican Party. But, as New York City's destruction and chaos bring risks of financial ruin, will he go back to his sneaky antics to finance the demands of his fellow Republicans?

Jumaane Williams: Jumaane Williams is an African American political activist and former member of the City Council for the 45th district. He is part of the Democratic Party and describes himself as a democratic socialist. Juamaane Williams endorsed Mamdani and shares similar views on creating affordable housing in NYC. Will he continue to support Mamdani as NYC continues to split into splintered factions?

Kathy Hochul: Kathy Hochul is the current Governor of New York and is part of the Democratic Party. She began her political career as a US representative in 2011, before running alongside Andrew Cuomo and becoming lieutenant governor from 2014 to 2018. However, she has been an outspoken opponent of Cuomo ever since his sexual harassment allegations. She has endorsed Mamdani in the 2025 election and continues to be an avid supporter. Despite not living in New York City, how will she respond to the radicalization and partisan divide?

Mark Levine: Mark Levine is the 28th Borough President of Manhattan and is part of the Democratic Party. Levine took office on January 1, 2022, and has worked to create an equitable, healthier city. Levine has said that he supports and endorses Mamdani as mayor of NYC. While in office, Levine has launched many initiatives, including planting trees in neighborhoods and funding citizens who suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic. Will he continue to support his fellow Democrats while the city is being destroyed?

Meredith Kopit Levien: Meredith Levien is the CEO of the New York Times, one of America's biggest newspaper companies. As the CEO of an independent journalism organization, she seeks to be as unbiased as possible, showing only the truth of both sides of the political spectrum. She holds massive cultural power, controlling the flow of information; how can that be affected in this time of crisis?

Michael Bloomberg: Michael Bloomberg is both a politician and a billionaire. Formerly, he ran for the democratic primaries and presidential election of 2020. It was a self-funded campaign in which he poured over 1 billion dollars into. His wealth comes from being the CEO of Bloomberg L.P, a financial data and media company. He has endorsed Cuomo in the 2025 elections. How will he respond to the rising violence as a major player in the democratic party?

Michael J. LiPetri: Michael J LiPetri is the chief of the NYPD, joining the force in 1994 and serving for 31 more years until being promoted all the way to Interim Chief of Department. Over his career, LiPetri has worked across the streets of Brooklyn and Manhattan, fighting against gang violence, narcotics, and more. How will he manage to break the tension between New Yorkers peacefully and keep the city stabilized?

Robert S. Tucker: Robert S. Tucker is the current Fire Commissioner of New York City and was appointed by Eric Adams in 2024. He is a "fire buff" and has dedicated his life to service, protecting millions in NYC. However, after receiving news of Mamdani's electoral victory, he has chosen to resign due to his beliefs as a Zionist. Thus, he is a supporter of Andrew Cuomo. Although will his beliefs as a "fire buff" be bipartisan enough in order to help out with fires due to the multitude of riots?

Susan Zhuang: Susan Zhuang is a New York City Council Member for District 43. She represents Brooklyn-based neighborhoods such as Sunset Park, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, etc. As part of the Democratic Party, she has advocated for public safety and underrepresented families. Despite this, she supported Andrew Cuomo in the 2025 mayoral election. But might she switch sides in order to bring back stability to New York City?

Vanessa Gibson: Vanessa Gibson is the 14th Borough President of The Bronx and is part of the Democratic Party. From 2009, Gibson was elected New York State Assemblywoman and later a member of the City Council in 2013. In 2017, she worked with then-Council Member Mark Levine for low-income citizens and strategies for food in NYC. Since she was elected Borough President in 2021, she has fought to combat hunger, fund technology in Bronx schools, and more. Gibson has also endorsed Mamdani as Mayor of New York City. How will she take initiative in The Bronx to ensure safety in the streets while promoting unity between political parties?

Vito Fossella: Vito Fossella is the 16th Borough President of Staten Island and is part of the Republican Party. From 1994, Vito was a member of the City Council, representing Staten Island, and was later elected in 1997 to represent Staten Island in the United States House of Representatives. Fossella was elected Borough President in 2022 and has battled against affordable housing, violent crime, poverty, and more. Fossella has stated that he supports whoever the Republican nominee in the NYC Mayoral Election is, that being Curtis Sliwa. How will he work to support his Republican constituents while assuring that Staten Island is kept at peace?

Zohran Mamdani: Zohran Mamdani is a democratic socialist who was declared the victor of the NYC 2025 mayoral elections. Born in Uganda and raised in New York City, Zohran aims to increase budgets for the subway service, make bus fares free, and support the working class. As past debates between Mamdani and his fellow mayoral candidates have brought increasing heat, NYC has been divided among itself, with chaos at an all-time high. However, Mamdani stays neutral, looking for what's best to unite the city as it once was.

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