



About 2026 Elections

ABOUT ROOSEVELT ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (RIRA)

RIRA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit Island-wide organization, formed in 1977 to exclusively represent the interests of Residents to New York State - back then Urban Development Corporation, since 1984 Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) - because Roosevelt Island is leased from the City to New York State. Many things unique to our community aren't directly addressed by our Community Board, our City Councilmember, our State Senator, our State Assemblymember. Examples include:

- Early on it was Garbage collection. We have the AVAC (still brilliant), yet as NYC residents, we are entitled to garbage collection. Our garbage departs in containers, not garbage trucks. Up until a decade ago, regularly, RIRA had to advocate for AVAC pickup in the City's budget.
- For the first two decades, it was the State Legislature that needed to approve our RIOC budget - we went to Albany to advocate.
- The Tram - our icon - is unique and has required RIRA's advocacy to avoid tram shutdown and reduced schedules - things, presently, we still advocate for the Residents.
- RIRA has fought for (and litigated) our open spaces/parks - no more residential buildings on the Island - unlike Manhattan where every nook and cranny is filled with sliver buildings.
- RIRA has fought for Resident Representation (a majority) on the RIOC Board, which helps inform RIOC's decision-making and operation, we advocated for agreement with Governor/Legislature.
- After the brutal treatment by PSD in 2013, we fought for community policing and reinvented PSD with the leadership of Jack McManus - thanks to PSD, our community is the safest in NYC.
- For decades, we've fought for air quality improvements in our community, including steam plant work.
- We discovered carcinogens in RIOC's public water fountains and had them shut immediately.
- We fought for the protection of our Island's wildlife.
- We fought for improvements to 911 system => better emergency response to Roosevelt Island.
- We made recommendations to RIOC on public purpose funding for community organizations.
- We advised on bike/traffic/roadway/promenade safety - like those new blinking stop signs.
- We were able to get COVID masks and tests for the community during COVID pandemic.
- We have supported and provided monthly community emergency presentations since COVID.
- We supported efforts, including Eastwood/Roosevelt Landings, on improper submetering.
- We supported efforts on fair pricing for Manhattan Park pool for Section 8 tenants.
- We supported affordable housing in its many forms.
- For decades, we provide the community breakfast on Roosevelt Island Day.
- We advocated for cleanup/better organization of the merchant waste, especially in Southtown.
- We advocated for better parking, better administration of Motorgate (the waitlist has gone down).
- We advocated for WIC access and affordable pricing at Gristede's/Foodtown.
- Included Coler Hospital and Cornell campuses as RIRA Members
- And there are hundreds of smaller topics that RIRA has advocated for over the decades.

These are all major accomplishments you can see and feel - directly in our community. Considering RIOC's upcoming ground lease amendments for all the buildings (affecting your rents, maintenance, and/or home value), and the potential of building ~4000 new apartments (~10,000 new residents affecting tram, subway, infrastructure, etc.), RIRA is poised to address these issues.

Although every resident is a member of RIRA, we would love for you to come join RIRA Common Council. If you are unable to join now, but discover you want to participate later, there is a process to become new Common Council member (with the recommendation and support of an existing Common Council member) during the 2-year term.

2026 RIRA Elections

Every two years (even years) we hold an election for our Common Council - our Board of Directors. To assure geographic diversity, roughly each building complex is one district, and there is representation at the district level, but your work, your opinions, and your efforts are all Island-wide. President and Vice-President positions are elected and Island-wide. We were unable to hold elections in 2020 due to COVID, and in 2022 due to a lack of personnel. Elections info/Q&A webinars October 19 & 21 @7 PM <https://tinyurl.com/RIRA2026ZOOM>

Expectations

Being a Common Council member means committing some time to RIRA, typically an hour-long monthly meeting (first Wednesday of the month at 8 PM), and then approximately 1-2 hours of committee work. Each Common Council member must join at least one committee. We have the following committees: Communication Committee; Government Relations Committee; Housing Committee; Island Services Committee; Legal Action Committee; Planning Committee; Public Safety Committee; Social, Cultural and Educational Services Committee; Youth Committee; Community Emergency Committee.

The officers President and Vice President typically require ~20 hours/week. The officers Secretary and Treasurer (elected from within the Common Council) typically require ~5-10 hours/week. Committee Chairs typically require ~10-20 hours/month.

Nominations

We are holding elections this year. The first step is to nominate yourself. The nominations forms and elections info are at <https://tinyurl.com/RIRA2026ELEC> and please complete the form and drop it off at the **Island House Doorstation at 555 Main St** (RIRA Nominations Envelope) by **6 PM October 25, 2026**. You will be called to confirm we have received your nomination, so please include your phone number. If you have questions, contact rira.president.farance@gmail.com for info, **put RIRA in the Subject: line**.

IMPORTANT: You don't have to be a US citizen to vote in the RIRA election, and you don't have to be a US citizen to run for a RIRA elected office, you just need to be a Resident of Roosevelt Island.

Elections

After receiving the nominations, they will be announced on October 26, with a Meet the Candidates Zoom discussion on October 28. For contested positions, we will hold elections on Elections Day at PS/IS 217 (paper ballots), and early drop off at places around Roosevelt Island (places/times to be announced).

Download RIRA Nomination Form at https://tinyurl.com/RIRA2026ELEC Drop-Off at: Island House Doorstation, 555 Main St, RIRA Nominations Envelope Deadline: October 25, 2026 6 PM For Help/INFO: E-mail rira.president.farance@gmail.com	Download RIRA Nomination Form at https://tinyurl.com/RIRA2026ELEC Drop-Off at: Island House Doorstation, 555 Main St, RIRA Nominations Envelope Deadline: October 25, 2026 6 PM For Help/INFO: E-mail rira.president.farance@gmail.com	Download RIRA Nomination Form at https://tinyurl.com/RIRA2026ELEC Drop-Off at: Island House Doorstation, 555 Main St, RIRA Nominations Envelope Deadline: October 25, 2026 6 PM For Help/INFO: E-mail rira.president.farance@gmail.com	Download RIRA Nomination Form at https://tinyurl.com/RIRA2026ELEC Drop-Off at: Island House Doorstation, 555 Main St, RIRA Nominations Envelope Deadline: October 25, 2026 6 PM For Help/INFO: E-mail rira.president.farance@gmail.com	Download RIRA Nomination Form at https://tinyurl.com/RIRA2026ELEC Drop-Off at: Island House Doorstation, 555 Main St, RIRA Nominations Envelope Deadline: October 25, 2026 6 PM For Help/INFO: E-mail rira.president.farance@gmail.com
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