



## East Siders Uncertain Who Should Represent District 4 in City Council, New Poll Finds

Third Avenue Institute's poll of verified voters finds the race to represent Manhattan's East Side is wide open, with almost two-thirds of voters still undecided.

**MANHATTAN, NY — May 11th 2025** — A new survey from the [Third Avenue Institute](#) finds that District 4 voters are deeply uncertain about who they want to represent them in the City Council, despite early voting beginning in just 34 days. The poll, conducted from April 22nd to May 10th, surveyed 84 verified registered Democrats who official records list as having previously voted in the 2021 New York City municipal democratic primary.

New York City's Council [District 4](#) covers parts of Manhattan's Upper East Side, Midtown East, and Stuyvesant Town. The race is wide open as incumbent Councilmember Keith Powers, who has represented the district since 2018, is term-limited. The election is hotly contested, with six candidates in the race, of whom five have raised over \$50,000 in campaign contributions.

Despite the June 24th primary election being just 44 days away, **63% of registered voters in the Third Avenue Institute's poll did not know which District 4 candidate they intended to vote for.** Among voters who have chosen their champion, less than a third were confident in who they intended to rank in third, fourth, or fifth position on their ballot — which is impactful in New York's ranked-choice voting system.

Candidate **Virginia Maloney is leading the pack**, with 38% of first-choice votes among poll respondents who know their voting intentions. In a simulated ranked-choice election, Maloney would win the race. However, we caution that the large share of undecided voters, modest poll sample size, and time until the election leaves the race for District 4 still anyone's to win.

Among issues highlighted on the campaign trail, **public safety was the issue that poll respondents most commonly cited as their top issue** (42%), with the cost of housing the second most salient topic for District 4 voters (20%). See the full results on the following pages for the breakdown.

### About the Third Avenue Institute

The Third Avenue Institute is a non-partisan nonprofit organization dedicated to researching the opinions of New Yorkers. Our mission is to help the public to better understand what New Yorkers think, and ensure that everyone's voice can be heard — not just the well-connected and powerful.

## Full Results

Responses of 84 randomly sampled people who, according to official Board of Elections data, reside in NY City Council District 4, are registered members of the Democratic Party, and cast a vote in the June 2021 NYC municipal primary elections. Responses collected between April 22nd and May 10th, 2025, and have been weighted based on age and sex to reflect the demographics of voters in the 2021 District 4 Democratic Party New York City municipal primary election.

<b>How likely are you to vote in the New York City Democratic Party primary election on June 24th, 2025?</b>	<b>Weighted Responses</b>
Almost certain to vote	85%
Very likely to vote	9%
Not at all likely to vote	3%
Somewhat likely to vote	2%

<b>Which statement best describes how closely you've been following the 2025 Democratic Party primary election for New York City Council District 4?</b>	<b>Weighted Responses</b>
I've heard about the candidates, but don't know how I'll rank them	50%
I haven't heard anything about the candidates in this election	26%
I know who my first-choice candidate is, but haven't decided my full ranking	17%
I know exactly how I will rank candidates in this election	7%

<b>Who would you rank first on your ballot, if the 2025 Democratic Party primary election for New York City Council District 4 were held today?</b>	<b>Weighted Responses</b>
I don't know	62%
Virginia Maloney	14%
Faith Bondy	8%
Vanessa Aronson	6%
Ben Wetzler	5%
Rachel Storch	4%
Lukas Florczak	0%

<b>How many candidates would you rank on your ballot, if the 2025 Democratic Party primary election for New York City Council District 4 were held today?</b>	<b>Weighted Responses</b>
I don't know any candidates I would rank	62%
1 candidate	17%
2 candidates	9%
3 candidates	4%
4 candidates	7%
5 candidates	1%

<b>As you're thinking about New York's upcoming election, which of these topics is most important to you?</b>	<b>Weighted Responses</b>
Public safety	42%
Housing costs	20%
Street & pedestrian safety	15%
Public transit	10%
Education	6%
Parks	6%

Topics were selected from issues covered in candidates' campaign materials.

## Detailed Survey Methodology

This poll was conducted in accordance with the American Association for Public Opinion Research's [Code of Professional Ethics and Practices](#).

The target population for this study was registered New York City Council District 4 residents who are registered Democratic Party members who NYS BOE records show cast a vote in the 2021 NYC municipal primary election (anywhere in NYC). 2021 is the most recent year that a competitive Democratic party municipal primary election occurred in this district (the mayoral election).

The Third Avenue Institute randomly sampled the target population. The Institute emailed each sampled person an invitation to participate in our online survey about upcoming elections. Survey participation was voluntary and participants were entered into a draw for a \$200 gift card. All responses were tied to a unique participant ID and only the first submission from each participant ID was accepted for analysis.

This research study is a proprietary study commissioned by the Third Avenue Institute, with no outside sponsorship.

During the survey period (April 22nd to May 10th) the survey received 84 responses, which represents a 0.35% sample of the 23,775-person target population. Using standard methodology, the margin of error on this sample size of the topline result is  $\pm 11\%$ . This means that readers can confidently interpret that many voters remain undecided, but should not read into the specific results for each candidate too closely.

To ensure the survey results accurately reflect the population of people who are likely to vote in the District 4 Democratic primary election, we re-weighted responses according to the actual distribution of age and sex of the target population.

Limitations on this research include:

- Number of respondents and corresponding possibility of some demographic groups being underrepresented, even despite reweighting.
- People with stronger opinions about the topic may be more likely to respond to the survey, which would lead to underrepresentation of people with weak or neutral opinions.

## Press Contact

To schedule an interview or request additional data, contact:

Sebastian Hallum Clarke  
Research Director  
Third Avenue Institute  
[sebastian@thirdavenue.nyc](mailto:sebastian@thirdavenue.nyc)