Bootcamp Partners:

- Bronx Progressives
- Manhattan Young Democrats
- New Kings Democrats
- Queens County Young Democrats
Agenda

I. Opening Remarks (Princess)
II. Refreshers - County Committee Overview (Cristina)
III. Bootcamp Training: How to Get on the Ballot (Amanda and Dev)
IV. Borough Breakouts (Jasmine/Partners)
V. Practice Rounds (Jasmine)
VI. Closing Remarks (Aliya/Hali)
Opening Remarks

Princess Manuel, Events Co-Chair
County Committee Overview

Cristina Gonzalez, WCP President
What is County Committee?

County Committee is the most local level of party governance.
The Five Counties By the Numbers:

Bronx County
11 ADS
999 EDs

Kings County (Brooklyn)
21 ADs
1,807 EDs

New York County (Manhattan)
12 ADs
1,298 EDs

Queens County
18 ADs
1,434 EDs

Richmond County (Staten Island)
4 ADs
312 EDs
The Five Democratic County Chairs:

- Kings County (Brooklyn): Frank Seddio
- Bronx County: Marcos Crespo
- New York County (Manhattan): Keith Wright
- Queens County: Joe Crowley
- Richmond County (Staten Island): John Gulino
This is Kings County, commonly known as Brooklyn.

It is divided into 21 Assembly Districts.

Each AD has two District Leaders, one male, one female.

Kings County has 42 District Leaders.
The Assembly Districts are also broken up into Election Districts.

Each ED has 2-4 county committee representatives.

All 42 District Leaders vote to elect the County Chair.

You could be one of them!
What does a County Committee Member do?

- Choose local judicial candidates
- Help create the Democratic Party platform
- Organize local neighborhoods
- Choose the Democratic Party’s nominee in the event of a special election
Why is it important that a County Committee Member can choose the Democratic Party Nominee in the event of a special election?

Since New York City is pretty Democratic, the Democrat that is nominated usually goes on to win the election.

In New York State, 1 out of 3 legislators are elected during a special election.

That means that the 200 or so people who serve on County Committee are electing the person that will go on to represent some 150,000 people.

And once elected they remain elected. In fact, in New York you are more likely to die in office or end up in jail than to be voted out of office.
Boot Camp Training: Petitioning

Special Guest Expert
Dev Awasthi,
Requirements For Getting On The Ballot For A Party Nomination Or Primary

Every candidate for public or party office must

✓ Gather a minimum number of signatures
✓ From registered voters
✓ Who are enrolled in the party whose nomination the candidate is seeking
✓ Who live in the district

This is called Petitioning!
Requirements For Getting On The Ballot for a Party Nomination or Primary

The number of signatures needed is set out in the law.

If you are not running in a major party, the minimum number of petition signatures required is 5% of the political party's enrollment in that district, or the number set, whichever is less.
# Signature Requirements For Getting On The Ballot For A Party Nomination Or Primary

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<th>Office</th>
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<td>Citywide Office</td>
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<td>Borough/Countywide Office</td>
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<td>Countywide Civil Court Judge</td>
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<td>State Committee/District Leader</td>
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<td>Judicial Delegate</td>
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Signature Requirements For Getting On The Ballot For A Party Nomination Or Primary

It is key to remember that these are minimum signature requirements and a campaign should collect between three and four times what is necessary.

- This shows strong support in the community
- Protects your petitions from being challenged
- Makes it likely that you make the ballot
Taking Common Sense Care of Your Petitions

It should be emphasized to your campaign team and volunteers that a Petition is a Legal Document!

- Write legibly
- Spill as little coffee on them as possible
- Do not let them be torn or crumpled
Petitioning

- It’s legal! People will try to say and do all sorts of things to stop you, but you have every right to do petition for a candidate in public areas and to knock on doors.
- Help people as they sign on, stand next to them and point as they sign, print, and write their address, this allows you to correct mistakes.
- No mistake is too small- even if you think it's legible enough, make it as perfect as possible and initial everything.
- Make sure every petition page is signed and all corrections are made, common mistake is not fixing address of petitioner.
Location

- Do your research of the district
  - Finding your strengths
  - District breakdown finding hotspots of activity and voters
  - Create priority lists based on research so you can best utilize resources

- Hotspots
  - 1st options- transportation hubs, local events, retail areas
  - 2nd options- flexing local supporters, especially seniors they are your keys to buildings and hyper-local communities, they tend to be social butterflies interacting through senior centers and local civic action
Accountability

- Very easy to get caught up in excitement of campaign starting and just cutting turf for whoever comes in, but you need to have priorities
- sign in sheets to Google sheets
  - Results are part of accountability. It is not helpful for someone to walk turf if you don’t know what happened on that walk- so get packets back, establish a time and place for you to get it back
  - It is also helpful to create a Google form, early on in the campaign they can be used for rough numbers.
  - Keep a map of entire district and keep track of all turfs if not printing all before hand and create sign out sheets for ALL turf
- Never send anyone out blind, an untrained canvasser can cause damage if they don’t know the basic issues and rules
- There are lots of passionate people out of there and your job as organizers is to direct and mold that passion
Some Simple Rules For Petitioning

● Voters can only sign one nominating petition per office.
● If they sign more than one, the petition with the earliest date is the only valid signature.
● It is important to get as many signatures as early as possible so that your signatures are the ones that are valid.
● It is better if signatures are collected from lists of Party enrolled voters that the campaign can provide. This method lessens the possibility of challenges, because you know that voters on the lists are
  ○ A) Registered in the Party and
  ○ B) Live in the district.
Some Simple Rules For Petitioning

● Signatures can be collected in what is called an “untargeted” approach at subway stops, street fairs, and other busy locations — as long as the signer is a registered Party Member in the district.
  ○ This method increases the likelihood of challenges because signers may not be registered, or enrolled in a party even if they think they are, or may live outside the district.
● The signature must be with a black or blue (preferably ball point) pen.
  ○ No pencil or other colors should be used. Signatures signed in other colors, or pencil, are not valid.
Some Simple Rules For Petitioning

- The signature should be **EXACTLY** as the voter has filled out and signed their voter registration card, and include their full name.
- Please tell people to sign their names the way they would on any legal document.
- Printing instead of signing, or only using a first initial, disqualifies the signature.
- The signature is the only part of the petition that the voter is required to fill out personally.
- The witness can ask the signer to also print their name, or you can print it for them.
- The date, voter’s address and other information may be filled out by the witness.
- Make sure you get the correct address, and don't abbreviate street names.
Some Simple Rules For Petitioning

- The date of the signature should be the date when the line is signed. Signatures may not be collected in advance of the first day of petitioning.
- All dates MUST be in sequential order.
- The Subscribing Witness may sign the same day or after the day that the signatures are collected, but not before the signatures are collected.
- If a voter makes an error, or they alter any detail, they must initial EVERY correction.
- If you as a witness make an error, please bring it up with your field director and they will instruct you how to cross out and initial it.
- Do not sign a petition on the same sheet on which you are the witness. Sign a sheet witnessed by someone else. **DO NOT SIGN ANY OTHER CANDIDATE'S PETITION BECAUSE IT COULD INVALIDATE THE SIGNATURES YOU ARE COLLECTING.**
Boot Camp Training: How To Get On The Ballot

Amanda Farias
Vice-President, WCP

*Disclaimer: I am not a lawyer, this is not legal advice.
Can I Be A Candidate For Office?
Requirements to Run For State Office
State Assembly – State Senate

✓ You must be a resident of New York State for at least the last five years.
✓ You must be a resident of the district for the 12 months leading up to the election.
✓ You must be registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking OR
✓ If you are not registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking you must have the permission of the County Leader for that political party.
Requirements to Run For Civil Court Judge

✓ You must be at least 35 years of age.
✓ You must be a resident of New York State for at least the last five years.
✓ You must be admitted to the New York State Bar for at least 10 years
Requirements to Run For City Council

✓ You must live in the District on the day you take office.
✓ You must be registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking OR
✓ If you are not registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking you must have the permission of the County Leader for that political party.
Requirements to Run For Borough/Countywide Office

Borough President – District Attorney

✓ You must live in the Borough/County on the day you take office.

✓ You must be registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking OR

✓ If you are not registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking you must have the permission of the County Leader for that political party.
Requirements to Run For Citywide Office
Mayor – Public Advocate - Comptroller

✓ You must live in the City of New York on the day you take office.
✓ You must be registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking OR
✓ If you are not registered in the political party whose nomination you are seeking you must have the permission of at least 3 of 5 of the County Leaders for that political party.
A Petition Has Three Parts To It
Part One
The top part of the petition lists:

- Candidate's Name
- Office They Are Running For
- Candidate's Address
- The Committee on Vacancies
Part Two
The second part of the petition has space for:

- The Date
- Signature
- Printed Name
- Address

The voter only is required to sign. The witness can and should neatly fill out all other information.
Part Three

The Witness Statement is a sworn statement which says that the signatures were collected by the witness.

It should be filled out at Campaign HQ with the help of the staff.

Make sure the Witness ID info is correct.

Don't number the sheet.
Who Can Witness A Petition

- An enrolled member of the party whose nomination you are seeking, who is registered to vote anywhere in New York State
- A Notary Public
- A Commissioner of Deeds
Who Can Witness A Petition

If you have Notaries or Commissioners of Deeds witness your petitions they must use an alternate Witness Statement.

Please note the Notary or Commissioner of Deeds must swear in each individual signer.
Types of Petitions

Omnibus

- When multiple candidates for different offices are listed on a single petition
- Each signature counts for all the candidates listed

Bullet or Single

- A single candidate is listed on the petition
Committee on Vacancies

Committee on Vacancies or CoV is a group of supporters who are in place to replace the candidate if anything unfortunate occurs.

It is not required, so having one (or not) is a political and practical decision best made by the campaign.
Picking A Color For Your Petitions

Democrats have traditionally printed their petitions on green paper.

Republicans have traditionally printed their petitions on “cherry” (pink) paper.

This is not a requirement and you can use any color paper you want.
The 2018 Primary Petitioning Period

Signatures can only be collected starting on **Tuesday June 5, 2018**. The latest a signature can be collected is **Thursday, July 12, 2018**, although the campaign should collect the petitions on an ongoing basis and be finished much sooner than that. The signatures can be collected on all days in this period, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, although you should be respectful of other people's traditions or religious prohibitions.
BINDING YOUR PETITIONS

Binding your petitions properly can make or break whether your candidate makes the ballot.

SO RULE #1 OF BINDING:

KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING

Not everyone really knows the rules.

Your best bet for this is to hire an experienced election lawyer.
The NYC Board of Elections requires each and every volume of petitions filed by a campaign have a party and county specific unique volume number affixed to the first page or cover of EACH petition volume.

The Volume Number is a sticker provided by the New York City Board of Elections

Remember To:

1) Get a Volume Number for the party and county in which you are running.
2) Get a Volume Number for each volume of petitions your campaign intends to file.
After the field director and/or the campaign's election lawyer has done a final review of the individual petition pages they are ready to be bound.

✓ Completed Petition Sheets
✓ Volume Number(s)
✓ Blue and/or Black Pens
✓ Fasteners
✓ Clear Packing Tape
✓ Hole Reinforcements
BINDING

Slide each individual petition page through the fasteners.
Number the petition pages sequentially in the bottom right hand corner using blue or black pen. It is best to start with “1” again in each volume.
BINDING

- Double check your work, as the NYC Board of Elections will send you a notice to cure if your volume's pages are numbered incorrectly.

- There is no requirement for how many pages must be in a volume as long as the number of signatures in total equal the minimum number required for the office for which you are running.
BINDING

Use hole reinforcement labels to repair and pages that may have ripped, so they don't fall out.
BINDING

✓ Shake your petitions to make sure all pages are securely fastened.

✓ Tape the top of the petitions so the fastener clip can not be unlocked.

✓ Affix your volume number to the front of the first sheet in each petition volume, not on top of the tape.
The New York City Board of Elections requires each candidate to file a petition cover sheet that identifies:

- The candidate's name, address and the office for which he/she is running.
- All petition volume numbers(s) in which the candidate appears.
- An affirmation that the volume(s) contain the minimum number of signatures required to run for office being sought.
The cover sheet is really important

- The information about the candidate and office must be complete, correct, and match the petition
- The number of volumes declared must exactly match the number submitted.
- The volume numbers of the bound petition sheets must exactly match the ones that you fill in on the cover sheet.
- You only get one chance to fix an error, and sometimes no chance.
Filing the petition

- Bring bound petition sheets AND cover sheet to file at Board of Elections in the City of New York at 32 Broadway, 7th floor. Watch your deadlines. They are real and you can't postpone them.

- Keep track of your petitions. Make sure you get notices sent to you immediately. Keep an eye on who else files petitions for the same office, and who files general objections.

- It's smart to keep a copy or a scan of your petition.
AND FINALLY!

If you do all this right, your candidate or YOU should be on the ballot, and you won’t have to worry about court challenges!
Practice Rounds
What we’re saying is....

YOU SHOULD RUN FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE!
6 Easy Steps to Running for County Committee!

(so easy, even dead people are on County Committee)
Step 1:
Identify your Assembly District (AD) and your Election District (ED)

(This can easily be done by looking up your address on the NYC Doitt Map)
Step 2:
Figure out if there is a vacancy. You can reach out to the Board of Elections or your local Democratic County Office.

If there is not, you can run in any ED that falls within your AD.
Step 3:
Calculate how many signatures you need. You will need 5% of the registered democrats in your chosen ED, which usually amounts to 30-60 signatures.
Step 4:
Create your County Committee Petition under your chosen party. You can begin collecting signatures from voters within your party only during petitioning season.

Petitioning starts on June 5 and ends on July 8. Go with a friend. Meet your neighbors. It’ll be fun!
Step 5:
Submit those signatures you collected.

You will need to create a **cover sheet & bind your pages before submitting**.

You can submit by going to dropping them off to the NYS Board of Elections Office. You can do that between July 9 and July 12.
Step 6:
If you were running unopposed, congratulations! You are now a county committee person!

If not and you are running against someone, Step 6 means going back to those neighbors and getting them to vote for you in the Primary.
Closing Remarks

Aliya Allen, WCP Treasurer & Fundraising Co-Chair
Haili Copas-Starke, WCP Fundraising Co-Chair