



## ***Protecting Reproductive Rights***

***As Mayor, Brad will strengthen protections against federal threats, expand abortion access citywide, ensure sustainable funding, safeguard providers legally, increase practical support for out-of-state travelers, improve emergency care, and broaden access to contraception and comprehensive sex education.***

### **Introduction**

Brad is running for Mayor to deliver a safer, more affordable, and better-run city. Reproductive freedom is critical for New Yorkers – the right to control their bodies, to have an abortion, to secure contraception, and to build a family in a safe and healthy environment. At this precarious moment, the City of New York has an important role to play in protecting these rights and assuring access to needed sexual and reproductive health services.

New Yorkers are proud of our history as one of the first states to decriminalize abortion, before the *Roe* decision. Since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* with the *Dobbs* decision in 2021, reproductive freedom has become even more precious for New York City residents, as well as people faced with abortion bans in other states who find care here. In November, 78% of New York City voters supported [Prop 1](#), to enshrine the right to abortion and other protections in our state constitution, a landslide victory that leaves no doubt where we stand.

The Trump administration is threatening abortion, contraception, sex education, and every aspect of reproductive health. They are committed to imposing their dystopian views on the nation and are working to defund abortion care and a wide range of reproductive health services. As Comptroller, Brad rang the warning bell immediately after the election in ["Protecting New York City"](#) and has remained constant in protecting reproductive freedoms – [urging major pharmacy chains like Walmart, Costco, Kroger, Albertsons, and McKesson to begin dispensing the abortion medication mifepristone.](#)

As Mayor, Brad will leverage strong oversight, strategic funding, and relentless organizing to protect reproductive rights. Brad will fight Trump's attacks and ensure New York City remains a safe haven for abortion and contraception by safeguarding healthcare workers, protecting personal health information, welcoming those from states with abortion bans, and strengthening access to reproductive health care citywide.

### **The Issue**

New York City has been a leader in reproductive care before the *Roe* decision established a national right to abortion. Even with the benefit of Prop 1 and legislation surrounding access to abortion and contraceptive

care, New York City must do more to deliver reliably and consistently on these promises. New Yorkers expect affordable, easy to access services across the city, without leaving any communities or individuals behind. We must continue to grow capacity while strengthening the existing network to serve all New Yorkers, as well as Americans from states with abortion bans who seek care here. When we fail, it is the poorest among us and people of color who are left without care and with limited options.

The next round of **attacks from Trump's Project 2025 Playbook may include a ban on telehealth for medication abortions, or withdrawing FDA approval for mifepristone** (aka the abortion pill). Also on the chopping block is dredging up a Victorian-era law (the Comstock Act) to prosecute anyone distributing abortion medications, materials or information through the mail – implementing a “domestic gag rule” that would **disqualify every health care provider that offers abortion or related care from receiving any federal family planning funds**, weaponizing data on health care, medical and wellness purchases, travel, etc. to hunt down and prosecute women and their providers for exercising their right to reproductive health services.

At the same time that the attacks on abortion are mounting and beginning to impact other basic health services, the **disparities persist in health care and outcomes for women of color**. In [states that have implemented the most restrictive abortion laws, infant and maternal deaths have increased](#). Black women and their newborns have been dealt unnecessary fatalities for generations without adequate attention and care.

The Trump administration is in the process of weaponizing federal funding, data, regulation and law to limit reproductive freedoms. **Brad is ready to respond in kind, with a strategic approach leveraging all of the City's resources and partners to protect New Yorkers and keep our doors open to our neighbors across the country seeking reproductive care.**

## Brad's Solution

As Mayor, Brad will marshal the City's resources to improve reproductive health care, curtail persistent disparities in health service and outcomes, and expand access to abortion for all New Yorkers. He will fight with every tool in the City's arsenal, rally officials across the nation to combat Trump's attacks, protect personal health information, shield healthcare workers from prosecution, and welcome people from states with abortion bans. Brad will meet efforts to deny reproductive freedom with stronger, growing, more effective abortion and contraception care in New York City.

### I. Protect our City Against Trump's Attacks on Reproductive Rights

#### Taking Action: Local Solutions, National Resistance

Brad will meet Trump's attacks on reproductive rights with strength, creativity, and resilience. He has the experience to craft effective responses and build a powerful bulwark of support. Brad will be a visible and unwavering champion, establishing a Council for Reproductive Freedom to convene stakeholders, strengthen the city's services, and demand accountability on behalf of all New Yorkers. **Brad is prepared for new federal restrictions—he has closely studied the Project 2025 Playbook and is ready to defend against future assaults on reproductive freedom.**

**As Mayor, Brad will:**

- **Ensure New Yorkers have access to safe, effective abortion care if the federal government limits or withdraws the “abortion pill.”** If Trump reinstates limits on telehealth prescriptions for mifepristone, Brad will work with providers to expand community locations prescribing medication abortions. If the FDA withdraws approval of mifepristone, then Brad will work with providers and the City and State Departments of Health to formalize a protocol for early abortions relying on [misoprostol](#), the second pill now used in conjunction with mifepristone – a standard practice in many countries proven to be safe and effective. Brad will also work with public providers to expand capacity for procedural abortions if the use of medication abortions slows.
- **Develop an independent authority, funded exclusively through state, local, and private sources, to oversee and manage all essential reproductive services currently provided by public agencies.** This authority will proactively combat a potential “domestic gag rule,” which threatens federal funding for H+H hospitals, City clinics, and private providers if they continue to offer abortion or abortion-related services—even though federal funds have not supported these services for decades. By creating clear guardrails, this new authority will safeguard abortion care.
- **Establish a Council to Protect Reproductive Freedom (CPRF)** to convene all providers, experts, consumers and advocates to examine New York City’s current service system, identify gaps in service and develop proposals to rebalance the system, including reportable measures to assure accountability. The CPRF will provide consistent, visible focus on Reproductive Freedom, and serve as a collaborative forum to develop strategies to increase service availability and effectiveness.
- **Rally support and demand accountability for stronger legal protections safeguarding New Yorkers’ personal health information from harassment, denial of service, or prosecution.** The State Legislature has passed the [Health Information Privacy Act](#)—awaiting the Governor’s signature—which restricts commercial businesses from misusing personal health data. A second [bill](#), granting individuals control over sensitive information in their electronic health records, must also be adopted. As Mayor, Brad will advocate forcefully for these protections and ensure accountability from retailers, software providers, and other businesses. Brad will also explore the creation of a City-sponsored system of “self sovereign IDs,” a digital identity model where individuals, not third parties, hold complete control over their personal data and credentials, allowing them to securely store and selectively share information.
- **Organize Mayors nationwide to build a coalition** that challenges the bans and restrictions and works together to develop the most effective strategies for local and state policies and **speak out for reproductive freedom**, expose the calamitous effects of further bans, and stand up for those who can not risk to push against the formidable pressures from the Trump administration.

### Stand up for Abortion Providers

As states enact abortion bans and threaten patients and providers with extreme penalties, health care professionals in New York and beyond have stepped up to deliver critical care. [The NY Abortion Access Fund](#) alone has assisted callers seeking abortion services from 32 states. Telehealth consultations enable New York providers to prescribe and coordinate the delivery of medication abortions remotely, but prosecutors in restrictive states are increasingly targeting these providers across state lines. While New York’s shield laws offer crucial legal protections, they must be continuously strengthened to counteract evolving threats from anti-abortion forces.

**As Mayor, Brad will:**

- **Support even stronger shield laws for New York providers serving clients in states with abortion bans.** New York has already enacted a Shield Law to protect providers who are serving clients in other states,

a law that is being challenged right now by prosecutors in Texas and Louisiana. Brad will stand strong with our providers aiming to serve as many Americans as possible. He will support proposed [amendments](#) to our Shield Laws which would also protect New York health professionals and any other institutions that receive “inquiries” about out-of-state residents who may have received services.

- **Build a pipeline of abortion providers for NYC and beyond.** Medical residency programs in states with abortion bans can no longer provide training for abortion providers. NYC teaching hospitals already play a leadership role preparing physicians for the entire country and we can build a pipeline of new health care practitioners for New York as well as for other states. As Mayor, Brad will revive a training protocol from 2002 to ensure that all Ob/Gyn residency programs in New York City public hospitals include abortion training. This program will also include ER doctors and other specialties who often have to address pregnancy and miscarriage issues.

### Address the challenges facing brick and mortar health centers

While medication abortions are becoming increasingly common, a significant number of people still require procedures performed in licensed facilities. Many existing facilities, built decades ago, are facing serious financial challenges. The fragmented funding structures assembled over the years are insufficient. Health insurance, public funding, and grants fail to fully cover reproductive care costs, leaving providers reliant on public donations—struggling to sustain current operations, let alone expand services. In addition, current facilities are not located in communities with the greatest current need, [deepening racial disparities in abortion access](#).

As Mayor, Brad will:

- **Develop a sustainable financial model for public and non-profit abortion providers.**
- **Lead the lobbying for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates** in line with actual costs.
- **Fight to restore NYS Article 6 funds** for primary care, including abortion, which [Governor Cuomo slashed](#).
- **Incorporate local grant funding into the City’s base budget to ensure reliable, consistent support.** In 2019, New York City led the nation as the first municipality to fund abortion services in response to federal restrictions. However, these vital resources have often become entangled in state and local bureaucracy, significantly limiting their impact.
- **Complete a comprehensive review** of the existing facilities, their current usage, and the needs.
- **Rebalance the map** to ensure easy access via public transportation for those seeking abortion care.

## II. Freedom to access safe, affordable abortion and contraception.

### Expand the New York Abortion Access Hub

The [New York City Abortion Access Hub](#) was launched by the NYC Health Department in late 2022 to educate the public about the right to abortion in New York City and increase access to care. The Hub has begun the critical job of promoting the availability of services, including financial aid, and helping to connect clients directly with attentive service. If this coordinated approach is to succeed, it requires sustained funding, additional visibility, and data collection to understand and address the needs of users.

As Mayor, Brad will:

- **Double the number of people the Hub serves to 15,000** through adequate funding and by mobilizing partners. Ensure sustained resources for Navigator staff, expanded services, website support, partnership development, evaluation, promotion, and critical data collection for ongoing improvements.
- **Expand the Hub's reach by mobilizing City agencies with community-based locations**—including public hospitals and clinics, NYCHA sites, health and recreation centers, and public transportation—to actively promote Hub services. Navigators will assist users in securing funding for their procedures and strengthen partnerships with [Brigid Alliance](#) and the NY Abortion Access Fund. User data will identify service and information gaps, guiding future improvements.

### Ensure ER Care

Abortion bans across the country have led to horrific cases of women dying during late term miscarriages because hospitals refuse to provide the abortion and related care that would have saved their lives. The federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) prohibits hospitals from refusing or delaying treatment for patients if they have an emergency medical condition – but Trump has withdrawn legal efforts to require compliance, leaving women's lives at risk.

#### As Mayor, Brad will:

- **Protect Women Needing Miscarriage and Other Emergency Care** by providing clear direction to all New York City hospitals and ERs to prioritize care for emergency medical conditions– and then working with the newly formed Council to Protect Reproductive Freedom to hold hospitals accountable.
- **Lobby aggressively** for the proposed [State law](#) to codify EMTALA for New York. Once adopted, monitor compliance and provide an emergency hotline to respond to any delays in care.

### Support patients traveling to NYC for an abortion

New York City will continue to welcome people from states that have banned abortion and essential medical procedures who seek care here.

#### As Mayor, Brad will:

- **Provide targeted, essential support for people traveling from states where abortions are banned who seek care here.** Brigid Alliance, a highly effective NYC-based nonprofit, provides comprehensive support for these needs. Brigid currently receives City Council funding for this work; at this precarious moment, this funding must be incorporated into the base budget for long-term sustainability.
- **Convene the hospitality industry—including hotels, food delivery services, taxis and rideshare operators, pharmacies, and retailers**—to develop a comprehensive Health and Wellness Package that meets visitors' essential needs. The Health and Care Package may include vouchers or reward points for local retailers, a limited-use [OMNY pass](#), and essential health and wellness supplies.

### Protect patients from harassment

Abortion clinics have long been targets for anti-abortion protesters. While New York City has a proud tradition of protecting First Amendment rights, no one has a right to prevent access to a health care facility, or to interfere with patients or staff. As the national rhetoric has grown more virulent, protests in New York City have become more aggressive and frightening.

#### As Mayor, Brad will:

- **Ensure a balance between the right to protest and the right to abortion care.** Unfortunately, the Adams' administration disrupted long-term supportive relationships between clinics and their local precincts and opted to send in the central Strategic Response Group (SRG), which has raised the temperature of these protests and made the gauntlet for patients much more daunting. As Mayor, Brad will deploy community affairs or patrol officers, only deploying SRF in limited situations such as a credible and significant safety threat or large-scale unrest.

#### Protect and expand access to contraception and sex education

New Yorkers continue to have difficulty finding and accessing contraception. Even with all of the regulations in place to make contraception affordable and accessible, many communities are still [contraception deserts](#) and more than 600,000 New Yorkers don't have adequate access. Brad has already taken on the [major drug chains to provide emergency contraception](#) and this is just the beginning of this fight.

#### As Mayor, Brad will:

- **Demand that pharmacies ensure emergency contraception is available** and that pharmacists provide contraception without a prescription.
- **Launch a public information campaign** on emergency contraception availability, prescription-free contraception, and insurance coverage options.
- **Ensure every CUNY campus provides emergency and over the counter contraception** in easy-to-access vending machines.
- **Work with providers** to fill remaining gaps in family planning services across the city, including any financial barriers to providing long acting reversible contraception like IUDs.
- **Work with the Department of Education to strengthen sex education requirements in middle and high schools**, ensuring comprehensive, evidence-based instruction delivered by teachers trained in DOE-approved curricula. Regularly monitor compliance and incorporate results into school report cards and leadership evaluations.

## Results

- **Protection against federal threats**, safeguarding abortion and reproductive health services.
- **Expanded abortion access** citywide, reducing disparities in reproductive healthcare.
- **Sustainable funding** by embedding reproductive health services in the city's core budget.
- **Healthcare providers are legally protected**, reinforcing shield laws against out-of-state prosecution.
- **Increased practical support for out-of-state travelers** seeking reproductive care.
- **Improved emergency care** protocols to protect patients needing urgent reproductive healthcare.
- **Contraceptive availability** and strengthened sex education in schools.