

# LANDER

## for Mayor

### ***Standing Up for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers***

***Brad will make New York City a national model for LGBTQ+ equality by funding queer-led nonprofits, protecting gender-affirming care, fighting hate, ending criminalization, and co-governing with LGBTQ+ communities to build a city where everyone can thrive.***

## Introduction

New York City has long stood as a beacon for LGBTQ+ people across the globe. From [the drag bars of the 1890s](#) to the [Stonewall uprising](#) and beyond, our city has been the frontline of the fight for queer liberation. Today, queer rights are under threat—from rising hate, institutional failures, and a national right-wing movement intent on rolling back decades of progress.

LGBTQ+ New Yorkers are at the center of the City's vitality, and Brad is running for Mayor to protect our rights and expand the promise of equity, safety, and joy for every LGBTQ+ New Yorker. Brad has a long, consistent record of standing up for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers and confronting the threats posed by Trump-era policies. As a City Councilmember, he co-sponsored landmark legislation to make New York more inclusive—banning conversion therapy, establishing gender-neutral bathrooms, expanding HIV & AIDS education, requiring gender pronoun collection on city forms, and enabling New Yorkers to use an “X” gender marker on birth certificates. He partnered with Girls for Gender Equity to introduce an inclusive school dress code and co-authored the Community Safety Act with then-Council Member Jumaane Williams, which [prohibits bias-based policing and protects LGBTQ+ New Yorkers from profiling](#). He also [proudly funded Drag Story Hour](#) in his Brooklyn district library. In response to the Trump administration's attacks, Brad founded #GetOrganizedBK after the 2016 election, rallying thousands of Brooklynites to fight bigotry and injustice. As Comptroller, he published [Protecting New York City and NYC's Federal Funding: Outlook Under Trump](#), outlining the risks to LGBTQ+ protections and social services under Project 2025. He created a tool to track federally funded programs vulnerable to Trump's cuts and convened leaders to plan NYC's response. Brad has taken direct action to protect trans New Yorkers—[publicly calling out NYU Langone for ending gender-affirming care](#), urging Attorney General Tish James to investigate, and hosting emergency roundtables with trans advocates. His [annual LGBTQ+ Resource Guide](#) now lists over 240 organizations, reflecting his steadfast commitment to ensuring New York remains a city where every LGBTQ+ person can thrive.

As Mayor, he'll go further—ensuring New York remains not just a safe haven, but a national model for LGBTQ+ policies and inclusion.

# The Issue

Since returning to office in 2025, Trump has launched [an aggressive campaign against LGBTQ+ rights](#), particularly targeting transgender individuals. His administration's actions have included executive orders that [redefine sex as strictly binary](#), [eliminate federal recognition of gender identity](#), and [restrict access to gender-affirming care](#). These measures have led to the rollback of protections in areas such as health care, education, military service, and housing.

Despite more than a century of hard-won progress, LGBTQ+ New Yorkers continue to face deeply entrenched systemic barriers. [Hate crimes have surged](#) nearly 60% in the city from 2019 to 2023, with LGBTQ+ individuals making up 17% of victims, with trans and gay New Yorkers facing especially sharp increases in violence. Transgender and nonbinary youth are bearing the emotional toll, [with 86% reporting negative mental health impacts from anti-trans rhetoric and two-thirds of trans students](#) in NYC feeling hopeless or sad. Economic disparities persist as well: one in three trans people lives in poverty, and more than half of Black trans women have been incarcerated. Institutions are failing to uphold basic protections: NYU Langone's decision to stop providing gender-affirming care, the discriminatory enforcement practices targeting LGBTQ+ businesses, and chronic delays in nonprofit funding all point to systemic neglect. Meanwhile, hateful legislation—from Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law to efforts here in NYC to ban trans girls from school sports—threatens to roll back decades of progress and marginalize queer and trans youth even further.

One primary candidate is himself a threat to LGBTQ+ safety and equality. In 1977, while running his father's campaign for Mayor against Ed Koch, Andrew Cuomo allegedly orchestrated the proliferation of signs along Queens Boulevard that read, "VOTE FOR CUOMO, NOT THE HOMO." While both Cuomos claimed not to know anything about the signs, Mayor Koch famously told the NY Times in a posthumously published interview that he believed for the rest of his life that Andrew was directly responsible.

# The Solution

Brad will use every tool of city government to build a safer, more equitable NYC for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers. In the face of renewed threats, Brad Lander will lead with courage, compassion, and clarity. His plan centers LGBTQ+ New Yorkers in the fight for justice—because a city that protects trans kids, funds queer culture, and guarantees gender-affirming care is a city that works for everyone. As Mayor, Brad won't just defend our rights—he'll grow our power, fuel our joy, and build a New York City where all of us can thrive.

**As Mayor, Brad will:**

## Invest in Safety, Services, and Culture

- **Triple funding for the [Trans Equity Initiative](#)** to total of \$10M with an emphasis on funding trans-led organizations.

- **Fund LGBTQ+ nonprofits:** End contract delays, increase indirect cost rates, and launch a capital fund for LGBTQ+ spaces. [Read Brad's plan to get Nonprofits Paid on Time.](#)
- **Expand affirming housing:** Build [LGBTQ+ senior housing](#) and increase emergency/transitional beds for homeless LGBTQ+ youth. [Read Brad's Housing Plan.](#)
- **Double funding for local LGBTQ+ suicide hotlines** so New Yorkers have access to supports despite [Trump's recent gutting of the national LGBTQ+ youth suicide prevention hotline.](#)
- **Uplift queer culture:** Expand funding to LGBTQ+ arts, heritage, and neighborhood organizations—especially BIPOC- and trans-led groups. *Brad's Arts + Culture Plan coming soon.*
- **Strengthen safeguards** against sexual harassment, discrimination, and wage inequality. [Read Brad's Workers' Rights Plan.](#)
- **Govern alongside LGBTQ+ communities** through participatory budgeting, co-governance structures, and deep civic partnerships.

### Advance Inclusive, Gender-Affirming Health Care

- **Guarantee care:** Establish a City-run authority—independent of H+H—to protect access to abortion, contraception, and gender-affirming care free from federal interference. Expand specialized LGBTQ+ specialized outreach to queer communities. [Read Brad's Reproductive Freedom Plan.](#)
- **Fully fund HIV prevention services:** Expand PEP & PrEP access, Ending the Epidemic, HASA and protect/fund other vital prevention programs put at risk by the federal administration via our new City-run authority [Read more about this in Brad's Reproductive Freedom Plan.](#)
- **Enforce accountability:** Strengthen oversight of health care providers under the NYC Human Rights Law.

### Fight Hate and Protect LGBTQ+ Communities

- **Fully fund the NYC Commission on Human Rights and strengthen enforcement:** Increase investment to enhance protections against discrimination in housing, employment, and public spaces, and address bias-based harassment. Brad will establish a specialized team within the Law Department to fast-track CCHR cases to the State Supreme Court, ensuring faster, stronger enforcement of New Yorkers' rights, especially in the face of added pressure by the Trump administration.
- **Fully Staff and Strengthen NYC's Human Rights Enforcement:** In an era when Trump, Musk, and others are undermining government in the name of "efficiency," Brad will double down on defending New Yorkers by hiring the attorneys and staff needed to enforce the nation's strongest human rights laws — especially for immigrants and LGBTQ+ New Yorkers — and ensure that the City, unlike private institutions, never capitulates.

- **Ensure LGBTQ+ students see their histories and identities** reflected in education by expanding inclusive, community-designed curricula; training educators to teach with cultural competence; and supporting anti-hate programs that promote belonging, leadership, and civic engagement.
- **Prevent extremism:** Launch early intervention programs that identify and support individuals at risk of violence.
- **Protect immigrants:** Uphold sanctuary laws, restore ActionNYC and Rapid Response Legal Collaborative, and expand "Know Your Rights" education citywide.
- **Read [Brad's Plan to Fight Hate + Harassment](#).**

## Reform Policing and End Criminalization

- **End abuse of LGBTQ+ New Yorkers**—especially the harassment, surveillance, and entrapment of trans women and sex workers. As Mayor, Brad will replace harmful enforcement with community-led safety and harm reduction strategies that prioritize safety and health.
- **Work with Albany to decriminalize sex workers**, and ensure all in-service NYPD officers complete mandatory anti-bias training, and enforce consequences for those who fail to comply or violate the standards it sets.
- **Establish binding authority for the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)** in routine cases involving misconduct against LGBTQ+ individuals, requiring the NYPD to adopt its disciplinary recommendations.
- **Close Rikers** with urgency: Accelerate borough-based jails construction, reduce pretrial detention, and prioritize decarceration of vulnerable LGBTQ+ detainees.
- **End, not criminalize, street homelessness** for people with serious mental illness through a [“housing first” approach](#), which moves people directly from the street into existing supportive housing units (including many single-room occupancy, or SRO units, which are currently vacant), with wraparound services. This model has proven effective at getting and keeping people housed 70-90% of the time.
- **Track data by gender identity** in police stops, arrests, and incarceration to measure and reduce disproportionate enforcement.
- **Fund legal services for LGBTQ+ people** facing criminalization, especially trans women of color, immigrants, and sex workers.

## Results

- **Safer Communities:** Reduced police harassment and abuse of LGBTQ+ people, especially trans women and sex workers.
- **Stronger Protections Against Discrimination:** Enhanced enforcement of human rights laws, strengthened oversight of health care providers, and more responsive action on bias-based harassment and discrimination.
- **Access to Gender-Affirming and Inclusive Health Care:** Guaranteed access to gender-affirming care, reproductive services, and HIV prevention, with city-run protections from federal interference.

- **Expanded Support Services:** Increased funding and stability for LGBTQ+ nonprofits, suicide prevention hotlines, and affirming housing options for LGBTQ+ youth and seniors.
- **Community Power:** A seat at the table through co-governance, participatory budgeting, and binding disciplinary authority for civilian review boards in cases of police misconduct.
- **Cultural Celebration and Inclusion:** More support for LGBTQ+ arts, heritage, and BIPOC/trans-led organizations, alongside expanded inclusive curricula in schools.
- **Decriminalization and Justice Reform:** Progress toward closing Rikers, decriminalizing sex workers, reducing pretrial detention, and funding legal services for criminalized LGBTQ+ individuals.
- **Prevention Over Punishment:** Investments in anti-hate education, early intervention programs, and “housing first” approaches to homelessness that prioritize care, not criminalization.