

3rd City Council District

Yetta Kurland (D)

Hi, my name is Yetta Kurland and I'm running for City Council on the West Side of Manhattan in the 3rd City Council District.

People tell me that I look young, but the truth is that for over twenty years, I have worked as a community organizer and civil rights attorney. I have a long record of standing up for ordinary New Yorkers against the rich and the powerful. I've gone to court to protect tenants from unfair evictions and to fight to preserve affordable housing. I've gone to court to fight for equal pay for women in the work force including women firefighters. I've provided legal representation for people victimized by hate crimes. And I was part of the Coalition that won marriage equality in New York State. I am also a small business owner and an educator, and founded a language center that offered educational opportunities and created hundreds of jobs for New Yorkers.

I grew up poor, in upstate New York. My family was mostly artists and educators. Our parents taught us to respect and value others. Every person should be treated with dignity, everyone has something to offer, and it's important to speak up for what you believe in.

That's why I went to law school, to learn the skills to help me stand up for my community. A few years ago, when the deal was made to close our neighborhood's hospital, St. Vincent's, in order to build more luxury condos, I used my skills to help organize our community to speak out. We started the Coalition for a New Village Hospital, and led the fight to open a new hospital on the West Side after the closure of St. Vincent's. Our work got the Department of Health to acknowledge its legal obligation to provide a hospital for West Side residents. When I get to the council, restoring an affordable full service hospital in OUR community will be my first goal. I'm Yetta Kurland and I would be proud to stand up for you in the City Council.

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