

To: Interested Parties  
Date: April 10, 2026  
RE: Mayor Mamdani's First 100 Days

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During his January 1, 2026, inauguration speech, Mayor Zohran Mamdani [memorably pledged to](#) “govern for all New Yorkers” and to “deliver an agenda of safety, affordability, and abundance – where government looks and lives like the people it represents.”

His first 100 days in office have been marked with both success and strife as he works to make good on this and the myriad other promises he made during his unlikely longshot mayoral campaign. Thus far, his track record is decidedly mixed.

Mayor Mamdani continues to enjoy high approval ratings, with 56 percent of New York City residents saying they have a favorable opinion of him in a [Siena poll conducted March 23-26](#), compared to 26 percent unfavorable and 17 percent responding “don’t know/no opinion.” That’s down from 68-20 in a Siena poll [conducted at the end of January](#). Mamdani’s negatives are slowly creeping up, according to Siena’s numbers, growing by six percentage points over less than three months.

The most recent poll, [conducted by](#) the Marist Institute for Public Opinion March 26-31, found Mamdani’s favorable rating at 55-33, with 12 percent unsure. This remains [largely unchanged](#) from an October 2025 Marist poll. His job approval rating, by contrast, in this poll was 48-30, with a sizable 23 percent of respondents unsure how to rate him in this category. In addition, 56 percent of poll participants said they feel New York City is moving in the right direction, up from 31 percent in October 2025.

The Marist poll found that Mayor Mamdani is particularly unpopular with Republican voters, which is not surprising, but also with those who are not affiliated with any political party, within whom he is underwater – 40-48 – when it comes to favorability. Independents account for [1 in 5 registered voters](#) (about 1 million people) across the five boroughs.

For comparison’s sake, former Mayor Bill de Blasio, who has seen many of his policies and administration staffers adopted and/or hired by Mamdani, had a 49-31 percent approval rating at his 100-day mark, [according to](#) a New York Times/NY1/Siena poll.

Mamdani’s immediate predecessor, former Mayor Eric Adams, whose administration was marked by scandal and whose imprint on City Hall is [being steadily erased by the new mayor](#), enjoyed a 61-24 approval rating as he neared the three-month mark of his term, [according to a March 2022 Marist poll](#). In February 2022, a whopping 64 percent of New Yorkers responding to a Quinnipiac poll [said they felt](#) optimistic about the next four years with Adams as mayor, though that high water mark [steadily – and quickly – fell](#).

Similar to de Blasio, who was [criticized for his slow progress](#) in making key appointments, Mayor Mamdani has yet to fill at least one key position – [head of the Economic Development](#)

[Corporation](#) – sending a troubling signal to the business community, which is [already at odds](#) with the administration over his push to raise taxes, among other initiatives members view as anti-growth.

## **THE SCORECARD - BIG TICKET ITEMS**

As de Blasio, Adams, and many mayors who came before them know all too well, New Yorkers are notoriously fickle when it comes to their elected officials.

Mamdani set high expectations with his affordability agenda, which includes a rent freeze, city-run grocery stores, universal free childcare, free buses and more. Candidate Mamdani made multiple policy promises both big and small, which are enumerated in detail on his (still live) [campaign website](#).

But now Mamdani is facing the sobering reality of a significant budget deficit, which he [has blamed](#) on his predecessor, [and an inability](#) to get the governor to agree to let him raise taxes on the rich. Below is a publicly sourced review of where some of Mamdani bigger campaign promises currently stand.

### **City Finances**

The City Comptroller has been publicly critical of the mayor's \$127 billion preliminary budget, noting that the city [consistently continues to spend](#) more than it takes in. He has [taken issue with](#) Mamdani's proposal to drain \$1.2 billion in reserves to balance the budget, saying this could have a negative long-term effect on the city's fiscal health.

- **Credit Downgraded:** Meanwhile, three major rating agencies – [Moody's](#), [S&P Global](#), and [Fitch](#) – have either already downgraded the city's credit outlook or warned they might do so due to concerns over the mayor's preliminary budget.
- **Council Battles:** Mamdani has picked a public – and [highly personal](#) – budget war with the Council and its speaker, Julie Menin, a pragmatic Democrat who has emerged as a [significant counterweight](#) to the Democratic Socialist mayor. His attack surprised even some of his Council allies, who [publicly accused him](#) of resorting to the politically charged tactics of his predecessors that he had roundly opposed during the campaign while pledging to bring positive change to City Hall.
- **No Albany Bailout:** Governor Hochul, whom [Mamdani endorsed](#) for re-election in February – [much to the chagrin](#) of his DSA base – has said Albany [will not be bailing the city out](#) of its budget crisis.

### **Public Safety**

Mamdani's opponents criticized him during the campaign for his past support of defunding the police and [anti-NYPD statements](#). He insisted that he had [left those days behind him](#), but since taking office he has demonstrated that old habits can be hard to break.

- **NYPD Feud:** Mamdani’s preliminary budget called for [scrapping his predecessor’s plan](#) to add 5,000 additional NYPD officers at a time when the department is stretched thin and poised to lose even more officers to retirement – particularly if overtime continues to be [reduced](#). The NYPD PBA is also unhappy [with Mamdani’s dismissive response](#) to so-called “[Snowballgate](#).” The incident, which sent two officers to the hospital and [was condemned as](#) “disgraceful” and “criminal” by NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch, was characterized by the mayor as “a classic New York snowball fight.”
- **Shooting Response:** In addition, the mayor’s response to the police shooting of Jabez Chakraborty – a 22-year-old man whose family said they called 911 seeking an ambulance because he was in emotional distress but got the police instead – [raised eyebrows](#). Mamdani [said that](#) Chakraborty should not be charged even though he lunged at a police officer with a knife, and the [PBA accused](#) the mayor of failing to support law enforcement. That incident was supposed to hasten the establishment by Mamdani of a \$1.1 billion [Department of Community Safety](#) to limit law enforcement response to non-criminal 911 calls – another campaign promise that [has been scaled back](#) in the face of the city’s sizable budget deficit.
- **Tension With Tisch:** Commissioner Tisch, an Adams appointee whom Mamdani opted to retain despite [opposition from his base](#), has thus far managed to maintain a largely united front with the mayor - with [the notable exception of](#) Snowballgate. Tisch brushed off criticism of the 5,000 new officer positions eliminated in the mayor’s budget, [saying the](#) narrative that they were cut was “frankly absurd because they never existed.” The mayor has modified his campaign-era rhetoric on a number of law enforcement issues – including, for example, the controversial NYPD gang database, which he once called a “vast dragnet” but [now says](#) her been reformed. But the [inherent tension](#) in their relationship and the historic push-pull between mayors and their appointed police chiefs has generated intense scrutiny.
- **FDNY Funding:** Less focus has been paid to the Fire Department, though a bipartisan group of Council members [recently criticized](#) the decades-long, largely flat funding allocated to the department and called on the Mamdani administration to hold it harmless from future cuts.
- **Cyclist Summonses:** The mayor [did roll back](#) a controversial Adams administration policy (supported by Commissioner Tisch) that enabled police officers to write criminal summonses to cyclists (including e-bike riders) for traffic offenses, eliciting cheers from the cycling and delivery community and [sparking safety concerns](#) among some elected officials.

## **Housing**

Mamdani’s housing promises – a centerpiece of his campaign – are off to a rocky start. Critics have seized on his approach to homeless encampment sweeps over the winter to his threats to raise property taxes, among other issues – forcing him to already retreat in some cases.

- **Encampment Sweeps:** Prior to taking office, Mamdani [pledged to end](#) the Adams administration’s practice of homelessness encampment sweeps. Following a series snowstorm and a prolonged cold snap, [during which](#) 19 people died of exposure and seven

others died of hypothermia in their own homes, the Mamdani administration [quietly reinstated](#) the practice of removing homeless individuals from the streets – albeit with a different approach from his predecessor. The results of this new approach have [reportedly been spotty](#), at best.

- **“Betrayal” on CityFHEPs:** During his campaign, Mamdani promised to drop lawsuits against CityFHEPs and ensure that expansion proceeds as scheduled under City Law. Yet last month, the mayor [appealed a court ruling](#) that required the City to expand the voucher program, which currently serves about 68,000 households. This about-face led to considerable criticism from the mayor's erstwhile supporters, with former Council Speaker Christine Quinn, now the CEO of Win NYC, calling the flip “[a betrayal](#).”
- **Property Taxes:** Mamdani’s promise to reform the “long-broken property tax system,” something multiple mayors have unsuccessfully pledged to do for decades, has yet to materialize. He has, however, [threatened to raise property taxes](#) if Albany did not heed his call to raise taxes on the rich – something Hochul has steadfastly refused to do. After backlash from homeowners across the five boroughs, the mayor appears to have recognized the cold reception the proposal generated and is [no longer publicly pushing it](#).
- **Rent Freeze:** [Mamdani failed](#) in his [eleventh-hour attempt](#) to prevent the bankruptcy sale of some 5,000 mostly rent stabilized apartments owned by Pinnacle Group to Summit Properties USA. He appears poised, however, to have better luck with his effort to secure a rent freeze for nearly 1 million rent-stabilized units – a core element of his campaign platform. The mayor [has reshaped](#) the Rent Guidelines Board, which began its work late last month and by law must consider both cost of living and [conditions of](#) the city’s real estate industry before making a decision. Mamdani has [publicly stated](#) that the Board is an “independent body” that must consider the “evidence” before making a decision, even as he reminds the public of his support for a freeze. Rent-stabilized landlords [are holding out](#) increasingly slim hope for relief for the most distressed buildings in the portfolio, while New York Apartment Association CEO Kenny Burgos, who has emerged as a highly visible foil to Mamdani, is [sounding the alarm](#) about the negative impacts of a freeze, which will eventually trickle down to renters themselves.
- **Trump Funding:** In February, Mamdani made an unannounced trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Donald Trump at the White House. Though he was highly critical of Trump during the campaign, the mayor has subsequently established a surprisingly [chummy relationship](#) with the president, and hopes to secure funding from him for the long-dormant [Sunnyside Yards housing project](#) in Queens. Local residents and elected officials, however, are not enthused about the idea of the project – a holdover from the de Blasio administration – and have [expressed dismay](#) about a lack of information and transparency.

## **Quality of Life**

There are numerous quality-of-life pledges on which Mamdani has thus far failed to deliver, drawing varying degrees of protest from friends and foes alike.

- **Free Buses:** Perhaps Mamdani’ buzziest campaign proposal was his pledge for “fast and free buses” to all New Yorkers. He has yet to make any tangible progress on this promise, [though he is seeking state support](#) for a five-week pilot to make all buses free when FIFA World Cup matches are played in the region this summer. At this point, however, Hochul has yet to signal support for either the pilot program or any free citywide bus services.
- **City-Owned Grocery Stores:** Despite the city’s \$5.4 billion budget shortfall, Mamdani is proposing a [\\$70 million plan](#) to study locations for the five city-owned grocery stores he promised on the campaign trail – which he said at the time [would only cost \\$60 million](#) in total.
- **Open Streets:** While campaigning, Mamdani pledged to grow the Open Streets program, but has been [forced to scale that back](#) due to budget constraints. The [same goes for](#) his campaign pledge to bring a hardened “daylighting” policy to streetcorners across the city.
- **“No More 24”:** The Mamdani administration is also [reportedly moving to block](#) passage of the so-called “No More 24” bill that [he promised](#) picketing home health care workers in Brooklyn that he would pass if elected mayor.
- **Free Child Care:** Mamdani has secured some initial wins on this front, particularly with Hochul [pledging an additional \\$1.5 billion](#) to the city over the next two years in addition to nearly \$3 billion over the next two years for a [free child care pilot program](#) for 2 year olds.

### **Parks & Library Spending**

Despite pledging on the campaign trail to be a champion for parks and libraries, Mamdani's preliminary budget tells a different story, falling short of his own benchmarks on both fronts.

- **Library Spending:** During his campaign, Mamdani pledged to end the practice of using library funding as a “bargaining chip” in budget negotiations and to commit 0.5% of the city’s budget to libraries. However, his preliminary budget [spends less](#) than the 0.5% benchmark on the library system, landing at about 0.39%.
- **Parks Spending:** While running for mayor, Mamdani signed onto the 1% for parks campaign and [repeated that pledge](#) multiple times on the campaign trail. But his preliminary budget [allocates just over .05%](#) (\$654 million) of the total \$127 billion budget to the Parks Department – \$33 million less than what is in the current budget.
- **New Salary Spending:** Though he has ordered city agencies [to cut spending to address](#) the projected \$5.4 billion budget gap over the next two years, Mamdani is reportedly [shelling out close to](#) \$2 million for salaries in the newly created Office of Mass Engagement, which effectively moved the field arm of his political campaign inside City Hall.

### **Education**

Education was a notable weak spot in candidate Mamdani's platform. On the campaign trail, [opponents criticized](#) Mandani for failing to put forward a robust education agenda. His first 100 days have done little to fill the gap – with the mayor already reversing or retreating from several of the positions he did stake out.

- **Mayoral Control:** Mamdani's most significant proposal was supporting, as his campaign website states, “an end to mayoral control and envisions a system instead in which parents, students, educators and administrators work together to create the school environments in which students and families will best thrive. Now, however, Mamdani is [asking Albany to extend](#) the mayoral control governance model for another four years – but [state lawmakers want to see](#) a detailed plan about how the mayor will deal with overcrowding and shrinking class sizes.
- **Classroom Size:** Though he spoke on the campaign trail in favor of reducing class sizes, Mayor Mamdani is now seeking to save \$1.3 billion by [delaying a 2022 state mandate](#) that 80 percent of the city's public classrooms include no more than 20 to 25 students by next school year.
- **Gifted & Talented:** On the campaign trail, Mamdani [said that he would end](#) the gifted and talented program for kindergarten students in public schools – another continuation of a unfulfilled de Blasio-era initiative. His comments [drew swift rebuke](#) from his opponents and reignited a [long-running debate](#) over whether the program is a form of sanctioned segregation. Though the mayor [appeared to reaffirm his stance](#) with the selection of Schools Chancellor Kamar Samuels, who phased out some gifted tracking while serving as superintendent in the Bronx, Mamdani has not taken any action on this issue and the program remains in place through at least the 2026-27 school year.

## **CONCLUSION: AN INCREASINGLY DIVIDED CITY**

Candidate Mamdani made many promises on the campaign trail – both big and small – the majority of which he has, since taking office, thus far either failed to implement or abandoned altogether.

An accounting of Mayor Mamdani's first 100 days must include a review of whether he has delivered on his inauguration speech promise to “overcome the isolation that too many feel and connect the people of this city to one another.”

His efforts on this front have been uneven at best. While he has indeed reached out to and uplifted the members of often-overlooked communities, he has at the same time alienated, snubbed, and even flat-out insulted others.

Members of the estimated 750,000 to 1 million Muslim New Yorkers living in the five boroughs [said they felt seen](#) and supported as the city's first Muslim mayor [publicly celebrated Ramadan](#).

However, hate crimes – including both antisemitic and [anti-Muslim attacks](#) – [are up](#), with more than half of confirmed incidents targeting the Jews who make up just 10 percent of the city's

overall population. The mayor himself [has not been immune to this uptick](#). The unrest in the city was perhaps [most evident in the March 7](#) violent clash between anti-Muslim protestors and counter-demonstrators during which two men from Pennsylvania were arrested after throwing improvised explosive devices.

Mamdani angered some Catholic New Yorkers, [whose votes he did not carry](#) in the November 2025 election, by – among other things - becoming the first mayor in nearly 100 years to [skip the installation](#) of a new local Catholic Archbishop and [declining to include](#) any Catholic priests or representatives at his inauguration ceremony or first annual interfaith breakfast.

Though [he has taken steps to repair](#) his relationship with the city's Catholic community, the mayor's approval rating with Catholic voters across the state has dropped from 41-41 in the Siena poll conducted in late January to 34-44 in its late March poll.

Mamdani has recently [taken steps to mend](#) his relationship with Black New Yorkers, who were disappointed by his failure, until recently, to appoint a Black deputy mayor and by his property tax increase proposal. Though he lost the Black vote during the June primary, Mamdani did make up ground with this key constituency in the general election. Currently, his approval rating with Black voters across the state stands at a healthy 60-17 with 23 percent undecided, [according to the March Siena poll](#).

Much attention has been paid since the outset of the campaign and continuing through his first 100 days in office to Mamdani's relationship with Jewish New Yorkers, due to his public and unapologetic opposition to Israel.

This has been exacerbated by his refusal to publicly explain or condemn his wife's antisemitic social media history celebrating Hamas and using offensive racist language, continuing to insist [that she is a "private" person](#), though she is married to the one of the most high-profile elected officials in the state (if not the nation), lives with him in a taxpayer-funded home and is protected by a taxpayer-funded security detail.

The mayor has considerable work to do to win over Jews, according to the Siena poll, which found his approval rating among Jewish voters at 34-44 with 22 percent undecided in January and 40-50 with 8 percent undecided in late March.