

## Today's Lead: Tackling Outside Spending In City Races

Posted on Aug 27, Posted by [Mike Muller](#) Category [The Eye-Opener](#)

Councilman Brad Lander is proposing legislation aimed at cracking down on spending by outside groups in city races. Such "[independent expenditures](#)" exploded following the Citizens United court decision, which allows near-unlimited spending, as long as the groups don't directly co-ordinate with campaigns. [La](#)

[nder's plan](#)

would close a loophole that allows corporations to spend lavishly on candidates through LLCs and require mailings and similar communications to include a notice outlining who paid for them.

Of particular concern to Lander is the real estate industry-backed "Jobs 4 NY" committee. It's already spent \$1.35 million - including \$167,000 in support of Brooklyn Councilwoman [Sara González](#)

and \$110,000 to back

[Paul Vallone](#)

in Queens - and aims to spend \$10 million citywide. The PAC supports several council incumbents who are up for re-election, which might make it

[difficult to pass](#)

during an election year. But even some candidates who've received its support, like Brooklyn's [Laurie Combo](#)

, say it's unwelcome and support Lander's proposal.

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he "could be agonizingly inefficient in a high-pressure, ever-shifting situation." ( [NYT](#) )

The clashing political ambitions of Quinn and De Blasio. ( [The Daily News](#) )

Candidates for public advocate gave "deeply populist and liberal answers to questions during a televised debate Sunday but clashed over a range of issues." ( [The Wall Street Journal](#) )

"Many voters have already made up their minds, by looking backward and judging the lives and careers of the contenders." ( [New York Magazine](#) )

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