

Arlene Burgos - Candidate Statement

I have served on the Irvington Board of Trustees since December 2021 and currently serve as Deputy Mayor. I have had the privilege of working with many of you, listening to your concerns and brainstorming solutions. I am running for Mayor because I care deeply about this village. Irvington is a great place to live, work, and raise families. We can make Irvington even better together.

I graduated from Yale University and Harvard Law School and am an equity partner at a New York City law firm where I manage a legal practice and the firm's business operations. As a lawyer with over 28 years of experience, I advise clients on corporate, tax, and estate planning matters. I have represented multinational companies in cross-border transactions, mergers and acquisitions, corporate reorganizations, and financings. On Irvington's Board, I regularly draw from my professional expertise in managing multifaceted financial transactions, counseling clients, and crafting solutions to complex business and legal issues to benefit our village.

In addition to my legal and financial experience, I offer my perspective as a parent currently raising children in our village. My husband, Jorge, and I have lived in Irvington since 2011 with our two daughters. From the start, I have been an active and engaged resident.

We are lucky to have a community of volunteers who dedicate their talent to our village. As Mayor, I will work to continue putting that energy and wealth of ideas into action. I believe in collaborative leadership for Irvington. Effective governance starts with listening to the needs and ideas of residents. I have learned that our Board must be transparent, responsive, and accessible.

As many of you know, our village Administrator will retire in October after 30 years of service. We need people on the Board with substantial experience and a deep understanding of our village government. I have served as the liaison to multiple departments/village committees and am ready to provide the guidance we need during this transition.

Highlights from my two terms on the Board include:

- Obtaining \$7 million in grants for infrastructure improvements, flood mitigation, electric vehicle charging stations, food scrap study, transit-oriented district zoning, Irvington Woods tree maintenance and plantings, among other essential initiatives;
- Establishing a community-led Facilities Planning Committee;
- Supporting a responsible deer management program in the Irvington Woods;

- Evaluating the budget to ensure that spending is in line with the priorities of the village;
- Permanently banning gas leaf blowers; and
- Partnering with local businesses to organize fun family activities like the Bulldog Gallery and Irvington Summerfest, to encourage residents and visitors to frequent the Main Street area.

If elected Mayor, my areas of focus will be:

- Streamlining the Building Process: lead community planning to simplify and improve the approval process for land use projects;
- Fiscal Responsibility: assemble a working group of stakeholders to participate in a budget review process, including evaluating opportunities for shared services;
- Effective Services and Facilities/Affordable Housing: lead community planning to ensure safe, updated facilities that deliver improved services and increase opportunities for downtown housing;
- Downtown Revitalization: establish a merchant council and partner with the Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce to create opportunities for collaboration;
- Encourage and Enhance Opportunities for Community Involvement: host open houses to facilitate connection, transparency, and volunteering; and
- Welcoming and Inclusive Community: work collaboratively to promote policies and practices that make our village more welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

I feel lucky that I chose to make Irvington my home. I treasure its charming downtown, its sense of community, and its enduring natural beauty. I look forward to working together to serve our village community.