



ASPA NY Metropolitan Chapter

2024 Election Guide





2024 Elections Guide for the ASPA New York Metropolitan Chapter

Your voice is important to our chapter, and we ask that you take just a few minutes to cast your ballot for this year's candidates. We were saddened to learn that our current President-Elect will not be able to take over the President role as planned, therefore our election this year is for two (2) President/President-Elect spots and four (4) council members. The person receiving the most votes for President/President-Elect will become President immediately, with the second-highest number will become President-Elect. We also have an amendment to our chapter bylaws.

Following this page, you will see the biographies for our candidates, followed by a ballot (this will happen twice: once for President-Elect, and once for Council members). You may vote for up to one (1) President-elect and up to four (4) council members. You also have the option to write in candidates, and you can also leave any section of this ballot blank if you wish. All candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

We encourage you to participate electronically. Our balloting software ensures that your responses are secure and that only one ballot can be cast per person. ***If you have any questions, or if you would like to request a paper ballot, please contact Ric Kolenda, Immediate Past President (2022-2023) & Nominations Chair (2023-2024), at nominations@aspany.org.***

The deadline for voting is August 11, 2024. We will announce the results by August 31, 2024. Thank you for your participation!



President & President-Elect Election & Duties

Here are the stated duties of the President & President-Elect as per the current chapter bylaws:

Section 1. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board; shall be an *ex-officio* member of all committees; shall appoint the Secretary and Treasurer for the Council; shall appoint the Chairs for each of the standing committees; and shall serve as immediate past President in the succeeding year. **Section 2. President-Elect.** The President-Elect shall serve as a member of the Council; shall, in the absence of the President, assume all the duties and privileges of the President; shall permanently assume the duties of the President until the next election should the President resign or otherwise be unable to perform the duties of the office.

Section 2. President-Elect. The President-Elect shall serve as a member of the Council; shall, in the absence of the President, assume all the duties and privileges of the President; shall permanently assume the duties of the President until the next election should the President resign or otherwise be unable to perform the duties of the office.

(From the Chapter Bylaws)

Note: Due to the inability of the current President-Elect to become President, the candidate with the highest number of votes will become the ASPA-NY President on September 1, 2024, and the candidate with the next highest number of votes will serve as President-Elect September 1, 2024, and will become the ASPA-NY President in September 2025.



President & President-Elect Candidates

CANDIDATE: Christopher Bisonette, MPA



My name is **Christopher Bisonette** and I am the Outreach Librarian at the Freeport Memorial Library. I have been a Librarian since 2009. I received my Bachelor of History in 2007 and my Master of Library and Information Science in 2008. I received my second Master of Public Administration in 2014. My goal is to expand knowledge base and learn more about what I can do with Public Administration degree. I have served on the ASPA NY Metro Chapter Executive Council for the past two years.

CANDIDATE: Joel Desouve, MPA



Joel Desouve currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff to a New York City Council Member and the Chair of the Committee on Education. Before this role, he was the Director of Policy, Budget & Infrastructure at the New York City Council. In that position, Joel managed large budgets, conducted legislative research, and worked closely with city agencies and nonprofits. He played a key role in overseeing a budget of over \$60 million and allocating more than \$22 million for capital projects and local organizations. In the past, he has worked at the Baruch College and interned for Jumaane D. Williams, the Public Advocate of New York City, and Assembly Member Mathylde

Frontus. In these roles, he proposed impactful policies and collaborated with community leaders and officials. Joel also currently serves as the Secretary of ASPA New York Metro.

Joel holds a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College's Marxe School of Public & International Affairs, where he also served as the President of the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society. Joel also has a B.S. in Public Affairs with honors and a minor in Communication Studies. Volunteering with organizations such as the Salvation Army and the International Rescue Committee has given Joel a strong background in community engagement and social services. Additionally, his ability to speak French, Haitian Creole, and intermediate Spanish enhances his capacity to collaborate with professionals from diverse backgrounds and in diverse environments.



President & President-Elect Candidates (Continued)

CANDIDATE: Valerii Negodiaev, MPA Candidate



Valerii Negodiaev is a graduate student at Pace University seeking to obtain his Master of Public Administration. Valerii received his bachelor's degree in law and worked as a Civil Lawyer. His law experience allowed him to establish his business as a real property consultant. Valerii is interested in introducing artificial intelligence to regulate various spheres of society and foreign affairs.



Council Member Election & Duties

Here are the stated duties of the Council as per the current chapter bylaws:

Section 5. Duties of the Council. The Council will set guidelines and provide general chapter oversight including program and finance, ensure a regular audit is conducted, and other duties as required. *(From the Chapter Bylaws)*

ASPA-NY has a total of eight (8) council members. Four (4) council members are elected each year to allow continuity in the organization. The council members elected this year will serve two-year terms from **2024-2026**, and will serve with four additional members currently serving terms from **2023-2025**.

Council Candidates

ASPA-NY has a total of eight (8) council members. Four (4) council members are elected each year to allow continuity in the organization. The council members elected this year will serve two-year terms from 2024-2026, and will serve with four additional members currently serving terms from 2023-2025.

These four terms ending in 2024 are currently held by:

- Jasmin Azcona, MPA*
- Chris Bisonette, MPA*
- LaSonya Thompson, MPA*
- Stephen Rolandi, MPA*

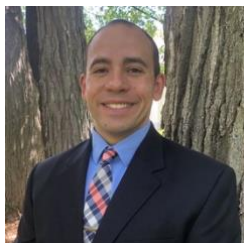
*Current council members who do not wish to stand for re-election at this time

These four ongoing terms ending in 2025 will continue to be held by:

- Jessica Ganus, MPA
- Usha Narasimhan, MPA
- Khalid Nathaniel Nixon, MPA
- Shilpa Viswanath, Ph.D.



CANDIDATE: Adam Cucchiara, MPP, Ph.D. Candidate



Adam Cucchiara is an Instructor of American Politics in the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point. His research focuses on public sector organizations, management, and leadership, with a specific focus on public safety and national security. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in the Public Administration program at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University (expected 2024).

CANDIDATE: Manuel Gonzalez, MPA



Manuel Gonzalez started his career with the U.S Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division in 2017 as an Investigator in the Albany District Office where he conducted various investigation under the acts enforced by the Wage and Hour Division. After a few years of working as an investigator in the Albany District Office Manuel was promoted to Assistant District Directors for the NYC District Office. In his current role he oversees a team of investigators who conducts investigations that are related to advancing the mission of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Manuel has a master's degree in public administration from John Jay College of Criminal with a dual concentration in Management & Operations and Human Resources Management. Manuel earned his bachelor's degree also from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Criminal Justice with a minor in Law.

Manuel is also currently a mentor within the United States Department of Labor Mentoring @ Labor since 2024 and a mentor at John Jay College of Criminal Justine within Alumni Engagement department since 2022 to present.

CANDIDATE: Valerie Gudino, MPA



Valerie Gudino is an Assistant Budget and Policy Analyst on the Social and Community Services team at the NYC Independent Budget Office (IBO). Her portfolio includes the city's public safety agencies. She graduated from American University in 2020 with a BA in Public Relations and a minor in Political Science and is currently working towards her MPA. with a specialization of Management and Operations from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.



CANDIDATE: Jennifer Joseph, MPA Candidate



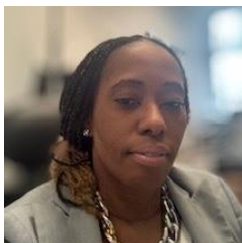
Jennifer's path to pursuing a Master of Public Administration was rooted in her Political Science studies at SUNY Geneseo and her experience working at a law firm in Westchester County with a primarily focus on real estate transactions. She knows the local community—as a paralegal, agent, and a neighbor—and can navigate the local market and nuances of real estate. Jennifer is a co-chair of the Pace University Master of Public Administration Student Association, a member of the American Society for Public Administration, and the International City/County Management Association.

CANDIDATE: Rinchen Lama, Ph.D.



Rinchen Lama is a public administration professional with over 3 years of Human Resources experience working at CUNY School of Professional Studies. Lama is currently pursuing her MPA at CUNY Baruch College where she was the Secretary of the Baruch College MPA Club for a year. Lama is interested in public service especially regarding public finance, retirement, social security, and health care access. Lama also has experience with data analysis, social media content development, auditing, and policy implementation. Lama also keeps up to date on her workplace's policies, federal guidelines, and rules on a regular basis to better serve in HR.

CANDIDATE: Petal Sampson, MPA



Petal Sampson: With a diverse career spanning over 10 years in public service within New York City government, I currently serve as the Classification Analyst within the Human Resources division at NYC Administration for Children's Services. My versatile skill set, coupled with a passion for civic engagement and operational excellence, I am dedicated to advancing the public interest and contributing to the continued success of our city.