



FACT

FOUNDATION FOR
ACCOUNTABILITY
AND CIVIC TRUST

August 25, 2026

City of New York
Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street
Suite 1010
New York, NY, 10007

RE: Mayor Zohran Mamdani Use of Official Resource for Political Purposes

Dear Board Members,

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting accountability, ethics, and transparency in government and civic arenas. We write today to request you investigate Mayor Zohran Mamdani for using his official position and public resources for political activity.

Foundational ethics laws prohibit elected officials from using their official position and taxpayer-funded resources for political purposes. Thus, the Conflicts of Interest Board has clearly stated that political endorsements are personal (and not official) acts and that “public servants may not use city resources or staff in connection with endorsements.” Yet, Mayor Mamdani has repeatedly made political statements and endorsements during official city press conferences, three examples of which follow:

In February 2026, Mayor Mamdani held an official press conference during which he stood behind a podium displaying the seal of New York City (as can be seen below). While the subject of the press conference was child care, Mamdani also made a political endorsement in the state’s gubernatorial election. He stated:

“Good afternoon, everyone. We speak often about New York’s bravest, or New York’s strongest, or New York’s finest. Today, however, I am thrilled to welcome what are surely New York’s cutest to City Hall. Thank you to the students of the District 2 Pre-K Center for taking a break from your ABCs and 123s to help me make a very important announcement... and I have to say that in thinking about what governance can look like, the choice that Governor Hochul has made

to make it something that has a relevance and a resonance for working people is one that has stayed with me, and I'm proud to endorse her.”¹



In an April 2026 official press conference, Mamdani again stood behind a podium displaying the city seal, endorsed a candidate for political office, and encouraged those attending to show up to vote:

“Good morning, Boerum Hill. It is a joy to be gathered here to celebrate the opening of 274 Atlantic Avenue, a child care center to serve every family who calls School District 15 home... The decision to endorse Lindsey is one that comes more from having seen her bravery and her courage in standing up over the years. I first got to know Lindsey when she made the decision to come forward and hold then-Governor Cuomo accountable... And early voting is happening right now. Election Day is, I think, on the 28th. Early voting will continue through the 26th. And it’s something that I’m glad to join my name to [support her].”²

¹ Office of the Mayor, *Transcript: Mayor Mamdani Launches 2-K And 3-K Request For Information — First Step Towards Universal Child Care*, New York City Official Website, nyc.gov (Feb. 5, 2026); Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani, [X](#) (February 8, 2026).

² Office of the Mayor, *Transcript: Mayor Mamdani, NYC Children Open Seven Formerly Vacant Early Childhood Education Centers*, New York City Official Website, nyc.gov (April 21, 2026).

Then yet again, on June 22, 2026, Mayor Mamdani held a press conference to make an announcement regarding extreme heat and worker protection.³ This was also an official event at which Mamdani stood behind a podium displaying the New York City Seal. During the press conference, Mamdani endorsed eight political candidates and made further political statements:

“You know, I’m proud to have endorsed eight candidates that are running for office — three for Congress, [and] five in contested races for the state legislature. And I am looking forward to New Yorkers hearing about Claire, Darializa [and] Brad; [and] when it comes to the state legislator, Aber Kawas, Eli Northrup, Illapa Sairitupac, Samantha Kattan [and] Brian Romero. These are all candidates that I’m very excited about. And I’m gonna spend the next, you know, today, tomorrow, doing everything that I can to help them.”⁴



Under the law, government officials are prohibited from engaging in political activity while performing their official duties and are prohibited from using government resources for political purposes.⁵ The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board guidance states:

All public service is vested with the public’s trust, and City employees owe their first duty of loyalty to the public whom they serve. **It is of utmost importance, therefore, that City employees do not to permit their personal**

³ Office of the Mayor, *Transcript: Mayor Mamdani Signs Executive Order Protecting Workers From Extreme Heat*, New York City Office Website, nyc.gov (June 22, 2026).

⁴ *Id.*; Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani, [X](https://twitter.com/NYCMayor) (June 22, 2026); NYC Mayor’s Office, [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (June 22, 2026).

⁵ Christopher M. Hammer, *Political Activities*, NYC Conflicts Of Interest Board (Current as of August 18, 2026).

partisan affiliations to influence the manner in which they discharge their official duties. Since party politics has a certain level of influence over the manner in which the public is governed, the political activities provisions of the conflicts of interest law were enacted in an attempt to ensure that City employees maintain impartiality when dispensing services to the public.

. . .
A City employee is absolutely prohibited from allowing his or her political activities to interfere with the discharge of his or her official duties. . . . In Advisory Opinion Number 2009-5, having determined that **political endorsements were personal, and not official, acts**, the Board advised that “public servants, including elected officials, may not issue political endorsements on City letterhead and may not otherwise use City resources or staff in connection with their political endorsements.” . . .

Just as the conflicts of interest law prohibits any political activity during City work hours, the law also prohibits City employees from using any City resources, such as their City computers, telephones, or office supplies, for any political activity. This prohibition includes, as the Board held in Advisory Opinion Number 2017-1, a public servant’s operation of a campaign’s social media account with City resources, as well as a public servant’s use of City logos and graphics, City-maintained lists of contact information, and City-owned wireless networks

Specifically relevant to this case, city officials cannot make political endorsements while performing their official duties and cannot use any city resources (including staff time, city owned buildings and equipment for a press conference, and the city seal) for political purposes. As shown in a prior case, the mayor is also subject to this law.⁶ In 2025, The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board fined then Mayor Eric Adams \$4,000 for introducing campaign activity into an official City Hall press conference.⁷

This is a unquestionably straightforward case that must be acted upon. During the three press conferences identified above, Mamdani explicitly endorsed numerous political candidates. This was an abuse of his official position, but also an abuse of staff time, city equipment, and the city seal. Furthermore, Mamdani has posted the transcripts of his political remarks on the official city webpage—another violation in itself. It is important to remember that these laws protect the impartiality of government, seek to maintain citizen trust in government and its actions regardless of who is in power, and protect taxpayer funds from abuse. In a democracy, ensuring a complete separation between government and politics is imperative for eliminating favoritism, conflicts of interest, and the practice of bribery and kickbacks. Your office simply will never see a more clear-cut, obvious, and documented violation of a statute than

⁶ NYC Conflicts of Interest Board, *Enforcement Case Summaries*, at 40 (Current as of August 18, 2026).

⁷ *Id.*

this case. Thus, we request the Board investigate these and any other occurrences and impose an appropriate penalty against Mayor Mamdani.

Sincerely,

/s/Kendra Arnold

Kendra Arnold, Executive Director
Foundation for Accountability & Civic Trust