

Queens Civic Congress, in [CIVIC 2030](#), supports adequate funding for the Offices of the five Borough Presidents and for Community Boards. Borough President Marshall's proposal offers a way to get there.
- Corey Bearak, President, Queens Civic Congress
[See Bearak quoted below]

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/queens/2010/01/27/2010-01-27_boro_power_plea_reelected_beep_marshall_seeks_more_community_clout.html#ixzz0dsI9zBhA

Reelected Queens Borough President Helen Marshall seeks more community clout in third term

BY [Lisa L. Colangelo](#)

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Wednesday, January 27th 2010, 4:00 AM

Queens Borough President [Helen Marshall](#) started her third term Tuesday with a broad plea to [Mayor Bloomberg](#): Don't weaken my office.

In fact, Marshall argued that she and her counterparts and community boards should get even broader powers.

"Borough presidents know what borough-wide capital projects are needed, which city services are lacking and how the particular educational needs of the borough's students can be met," Marshall said Tuesday during a speech after her swearing-in ceremony at [York College in Jamaica](#).

Bloomberg is expected to appoint a charter revision panel in the coming weeks. Among other issues, the panel will examine and possibly reduce or eliminate the roles of borough presidents and community boards.

"Our community boards are the eyes and ears of our neighborhoods and know how to tackle local problems," said Marshall. "I can tell you that I will oppose any effort to stifle their voices."

She said the charter commission should have at least one seat dedicated to a Queens representative.

In addition, Marshall said there should be a funding formula that guarantees borough presidents and community boards a percentage of the city budget.

She also called for a borough seat on both the Board of Standards and Appeals, which awards

zoning variances, and the board of the [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#).

Civic leaders threw their support behind Marshall's campaign to preserve local government. "The borough president is an advocate for the borough, and her office must continue to fight for Queens' fair share," said [Robert Holden](#), president of the [Juniper Park Civic Association](#).

"Agency commissioners need to understand that they work for all New Yorkers," Holden said. "The borough president can make sure that city agencies are held accountable when they don't serve the needs of our communities."

[Corey Bearak](#) of the Queens [Civic Congress](#) said community groups are ready to work with Marshall on this issue.

"We are focused on preserving the offices so they can serve us," Bearak said. "They are forums for us."

The packed house at York College included city [Controller John Liu](#) and [Council Speaker Christine Quinn](#).

Noting that the borough hosts two airports, Marshall suggested the [Transportation Security Administration](#) open a training facility in Queens and recruit local residents for jobs.

Marshall took a break from her speech to honor Chania Jeudy, a [Hillcrest High School](#) student from [Haiti](#) who started a drive to collect donations for the earthquake-ravaged country.

lcolangelo@nydailynews.com