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# Council-speaker hopeful vows to challenge mayor

The race for City Council speaker was brought out of the back rooms of City Hall and into a public forum last night, with one contender pledging to wrest power from the mayor.

Councilman-elect David Weprin (D-Queens) told a crowd of 400 gathered for the first-ever public debate among speaker candidates that if he got the job, he'd push to approve the mayor's picks for commissioners and agency heads.

"I will fight for the City Council's approval of mayoral commissioners and judicial appointees," Weprin said.

Although such oversight is common elsewhere, in New York the mayor typically picks his own team.

The forum included all seven speaker candidates.

*Frankie Edozien*

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