

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Candidate Questionnaire - 2022 Primary

Dear Johanna Carmona,
Congratulations on your decision to run for a seat on the New York Legislature! Citizens Union appreciates your commitment to serve the public. In the following pages, you will find questions regarding your positions on various reform issues and your plans for office. Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for office, and to issue our preference for the June primary. Read more about the method, principles, and criteria of the candidate evaluation process [here](#).

**

If you wish to be considered, please submit the questionnaire by March 16.

If you seek our support, we will need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. Given time constraints and the limited capacity of a member-based organization, we may not be able to evaluate all contests or candidates in this election cycle.

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If you cannot complete the questionnaire in one sitting, you can click Save at the bottom of every page.

Once you submit the questionnaire, you will receive a confirmation email with your responses. Citizens Union will not be able to see your answers unless you submit the form. We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).

For any questions, please email candidates@citizensunion.org

We thank you very much for your response.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name

Johanna Carmona

Office Sought (New York State)

Assembly

District Number

37

In which primary

Democratic

What party line/s are you running under?

Democratic

If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Democrat, Republican, other)?

Democratic

Age

32

Education

B.A. New York University and J.D. Seton Hall Law School

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Hispanic Community Liaison - Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan

Executive Board - 108 Precinct Community Council

Disabilities Committee - New York City Bar Association

Diversity Committee - Kings County District Attorneys Office

Sexual Assault Committee - Kings County District Attorneys Office

Website

johannacarmonaforassembly.com

Twitter [joforassembly](#)

Facebook

AFFIRMATIONS

Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?

Yes

Are you willing to be interviewed by Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee?

Yes

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union preferences and endorsements)

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John' followed by a stylized surname.

ETHICS

Do you support replacing Joint Commission on Public Ethics with an effective and independent enforcement body, whose members are not appointed directly by elected officials?

Yes

Do you support the new independent ethics oversight agency to also replace the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC)?

Yes

Do you support allowing the new ethics body to investigate misconduct more effectively by simplifying its voting rules, giving it the authority to subpoena testimony and documents, empowering it to suspend or terminate public officials (not elected officials), and increasing its transparency?

Yes

Do you support significantly limiting outside compensation earned by state legislators and eliminate stipends, while increasing their pay?

Yes

Do you hold financial interest or serve as an officer on an entity that receives funding from the state? If you do, how will you manage this conflict of interest?

Not Applicable

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

Not Applicable

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Election Administration

How would you use your power as a legislator to improve election administration in New York? Feel free to add any policy proposals you support in regards to reforming the BOE.

The board of elections needs resources to deal with all the new responsibilities of recent years, including early voting , the legislature should be assisting in their funding.

Do you support removing the constitutional requirement in election administration that empowers the two major political parties to nominate and effectively control election boards?

No

Do you support reducing the party-based hiring in boards of elections to the minimum currently required by the constitution?

Yes

Do you support implementing an open, competitive, merit-based hiring process for all election administration staff and certain functions at polls?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. Regarding reducing the party-based hiring question, I would want to review more information but generally I support increased professionalization of the boards of election.

Regarding the implementing an open, competitive, merit-based hiring process question - I believe there needs to be some representation by the political parties but I generally favor open, competitive and merit based hiring, of course!

Voting Rights

Do you support re-passing the constitutional amendment to enact same-day voter registration, and putting it on the ballot in 2024?

Yes

Do you support re-passing the constitutional amendment to enact no-excuse absentee voting, and putting it on the ballot in 2024?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

Open and Competitive Elections

Do you support easing access to the ballot for parties and independent candidates, by returning to the pre-2020 voting and signature thresholds? That includes reducing the voting threshold to become a registered party back to 50,000 votes in a gubernatorial election, and the petition requirement for independent candidates back to 15,000 signatures.

Yes

Do you support reforming the process of filling vacancies in the state legislature by implementing nonpartisan special elections or holding a primary election at least thirty days in advance of the special election?

No

Who do you think should draw new district maps every decade in New York? (e.g., the current Independent Redistricting Commission, the Legislature/LATFOR, a new body)

The independent commission drew part of western queens, including low income NYCHA developments into the east side of Manhattan! , it's hard to see how that outcome is a good one, that being said I generally support independent commissions.

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Do you support further reducing campaign contribution limits?

Yes

Do you support setting even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?

No

Starting from the next election cycle, New York will have a public campaign finance program, offering matching funds on small donations for candidates who opt in. If you decide to run again in the next election, do you intend to participate in the program?

Yes

Do you support moving the campaign finance matching program to be administered by an independent, nonpartisan body outside of the State Board of Election?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

Do you support setting even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state? I would definitely need more information, first amendment rights to participate in the political process apply even to those doing business with New York State, but generally support lower limits.

COURT REFORM

Do you support simplifying and consolidating New York State's court system - which includes 11 trial courts - by passing the Chief Judge's proposed constitutional amendment to modernize the courts?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

I am generally saying yes, but as lawyer the rights of defendants need to be protected, I want to know more.

GOALS, PLANS, AND REPRESENTATION

What are the top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected? Feel free to reference an answer above rather than restate it.

First: Helping Families

Second: Support Communities

Third: Rebuild our City and State

If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce? If you are an incumbent, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to pass?

In providing constituent service, what are the major needs of your district's constituents and how will you meet them?

Covid has created so many problems, unemployment insurance, healthcare, tenant and small landlord issues that I would be involved with all of them. As an attorney I also know that the state has input into everything from the incarcerated to mass transit funding to the arts and would be involved with all of those issues as well.

What experience have you had, if any, with good government and reform issues? (e.g. voting and elections, campaign finance, ethics, government transparency and oversight, police accountability). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

As a volunteer member of the 108th precinct community council I have worked to improve police community relations, particularly as someone from an immigrant family whose first language is Spanish, I have volunteered my time to help those interacting with the police to insure accountability.

Additionally, I was employed as a Special Victims Prosecutor and would like to work on safety.

How long have you lived in the district in which you are running?

My entire life

Have you lived in the district before this year's redistricting?

Yes

For incumbents: If your district has changed significantly following this year's redistricting, how do you intend to run your office to serve the needs of the new constituents you now represent?

N/A

PATH TO VICTORY

What is your win number (the number of votes needed to win this race), and what is your plan to achieve that number?

That is something my campaign team is working on.

What are your current fundraising numbers, if different than the last campaign finance filing?

That is something my campaign team is working on.

How many individual donors do you have?

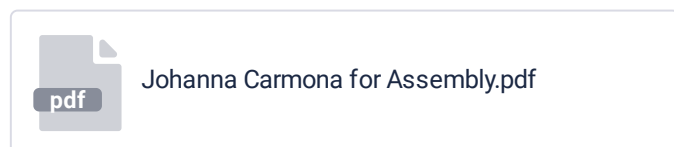
Just activated our Act blue on Friday, so only a few at this time.

Please indicate any endorsements that your campaign has received, if applicable (you can also share a link to a list of endorsements)

Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan
Ridgewood Democratic Club
Assembly member Daniel O'Donnell
New York Trial Lawyers Association

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please feel free to attach any additional information such as resume, campaign brochures, or issues statements.



What else would you like us to know about yourself?

Please review your answers by clicking PREVIEW ANSWERS below. You can submit the questionnaire at the bottom of the preview page by clicking SUBMIT. Once you click SUBMIT, you will receive a confirmation email with a PDF file containing your responses. *If you don't see the email, please check your spam box.*

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at candidates@citizensunion.org

Responses to the questionnaire will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for the New York State Legislature, and to issue our preference for the Primary and endorsement for the General Election.

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