



Saturday, March 19, 2022

Candidate Questionnaire - 2022 Primary

Dear Christopher Augusto LeBron,
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public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).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

Christopher Augusto LeBron

Office Sought (New York State)

Assembly

District Number

75

In which primary

Democratic

What party line/s are you running under?

Democrat

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

Democrat

Age

37

Education

St Lewis University ; Hunter College

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Hell's Kitchen Democratic Club (4 years on Board)

Manhattan Community Board 4 (6 years)

Manhattan Young Democrats (2 years on Board)

West 47th Street Tenant Association President (6 years)

Communications and Policy Direct (41st Council District)

City Council Black Latino and Asian Caucus - Fellow Communications and Legislation

Website <https://www.chrislebron4ny.com/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/lebron4ny>

Facebook Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/lebron4ny/>

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 read "Chris Lebron". The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font.

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?

No

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.

No

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.

I will work with reformers and progressives on ensuring that employment at both the state and city BOE are not based on patronage but are truly open to applications in order to function as a non-partisan group.

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

Yes

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.

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?

Yes

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)

Working towards a system where the responsibility of drafting our districts does not fall upon the shoulders of those individuals running for these respective offices is critical.

We must have a true, non-partisan group of individuals to draw these lines; independent of partisan oversight or responsibility.

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?

Yes

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.

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.

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: Housing, Health & Human Services

Second: Education

Third: Environment

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?

Making the emergency order to allow for public forums (such as Community Board Meetings, public hearings, etc.) to be accessed remotely, permanently. Additionally, recording and allowing for public access to these recorded meetings would be a key point of this legislation.

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

It has been over 50 years since District 75 has had an open election for Assembly office. I am fortunate to bring with me a repertoire of communications and campaign management experience. I have surrounded myself with a team of leaders with diverse backgrounds and skillsets who bring passion and dedication not only to this race but to bettering our community at large.

I have an expansive campaign coalition consisting of union retirees, small business owners, students, active union members, parents, block association leaders, precinct council leadership, tenant advocates, and community board members. My base consists of members of my community that are long engaged voters and new voters alike ready to get to work to build a district that is a part of the solution to fight climate change, the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, address our growing housing crisis, and proactively address issues of race and gender equity.

This campaign is more than just a bid for political office; it is an opportunity to bring real, progressive change to our district. Engaging with the community, garnering support from local civic and tenant organizations, promoting voter equity and accessibility are the foundation on which I will build and ultimately win my race. If the election ended today and I had to build a constituent service team, I am the only candidate in this race who would be able to do so day 1.

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.

While in City Council I worked with Common Cause to expand funding for Rank Choice Voting Education in black and brown communities.

While with the Black Latino Asian Caucus I worked with minority organizations and census outreach focused organizations to expand city and state count funding.

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

37

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?

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?

7000 is our win number. We are fortunate to have broad reaching support from tenant, block association, and community leaders. Utilizing these resources through community engagement, access to building complexes, and maximizing turnout of prime and double-prime voters is the key .

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

roughly \$50,000 on hand

How many individual donors do you have?

Roughly 470 donors (average donation amount is \$100) - additionally, we are 100% people powered (WE DO NOT ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CORPORATIONS, CORPORATE PACS OR LOBBYISTS, POLICE UNIONS, WALL STREET FIRMS OR THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY.

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

Hell's Kitchen Democratic Club

Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell IV

Save NYC Bars

Aleta LeFargue: Manhattan Plaza Tenant Association President

Catie Savage: Founder of Hell's Kitchen Litter Legion

Duane Jackson: "Times Square Hero" & Board of Directors of the Times Square Alliance

Glen Belofsky: Political Director of the 504 Democratic Club

Phelan Dante Fitzpatrick: LGBTQ+ Activist and Leader

Inge Ivchenko - London Terrace Tenant Association President

Brian Weber: Co-President of Midtown South Precinct Council

Jean Daniel Noland: Co-Chair of Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee

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?

I have years of experience as a political strategist under my belt; having served as political director, deputy campaign manager, co-chair and communications manager for a number of high-profile local campaigns. I also served as the Legislative and Communications Fellow for New York City Council's Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus, organizing for equal pay of EMS, 2020 Census outreach in our immigrant communities, and funding for RCV education. I worked as the Policy and Communications Director for the former City Council Chair of Public Housing. This work led to tracking and working with NYCHA leadership and the Federal Monitor.

I have served for the last five years as a member of Manhattan Community Board 4. During which I led the conversation on aid in the Small Business Taskforce and sat on both the Arts Culture Education and the Streetlife committee. I represented the board on the Mayor's Mental Health Public Awareness campaign, on the Waterfront Parks and Environment committee, negotiated the prioritization of funding for the development of Hudson River Park's Pier 97 and on the important Clinton Hell's Kitchen Land Use committee. I am also the founding president of the 47th Street Tenants' Association, successfully organizing his neighbors against an illegal hotel ring and returning sorely needed housing back on the rental market.

I am a past executive committee member of the Manhattan Young Democrats, spearheading the initiative to have more millennial and Gen-Z engagement and representation on these vital government boards. Currently I am in my third year as an executive member of the Hell's Kitchen Democratic Club.

As a passionate member of my community, I am running for the Office of State Assemblymember in the 75th District in hopes to give the people of Hell's Kitchen, Chelsea, and the surrounding areas the neighborhood they deserve.

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

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