



Wednesday, March 16, 2022

## Candidate Questionnaire - 2022 Primary

Dear David T Alexis,

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](#).

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**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public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).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](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org)

We thank you very much for your response.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Name

David T Alexis

### Office Sought (New York State)

Senate

### District Number

21

### 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

34

### Education

Bachelors of Science in Biology, University of Bridgeport

### Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

- The Drivers Cooperative, a collective of 3,600 rideshare drivers that I helped organize;
- Ebenezer International Church Of God (which includes the Church of God network of churches);
- The Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patient Network, a 501c3, with hospital and service provider partnerships made with hospitals and other service providers all over the district;
- The Campaign for New York Health, which is made up of unions and other healthcare stakeholders that may be willing to endorse my candidacy

- Partnerships with community organizations through United For Brownsville.

**Website**            davidforbk.com

**Twitter**            @david4bk

**Facebook**        <https://www.facebook.com/David4BK/>

## **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 "David", is written in a cursive style.

# 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.**

We should move to non-partisan professionalized boards of elections. The NYC BOE should adopt the civil service system used by other NYC agencies.

Each county board of elections should be mandated to operate polling places that are safe, accessible, and have robust language services beyond those covered in the federal Voting Rights Act.

I support a transition in New York into a vote-by-mail system by 2030, where each voter is automatically mailed a postage-paid ballot for each election in which they are eligible to vote.

**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.

The Independent Redistricting Commission initially appeared to be a positive development, but what played out is two groups of partisan representatives on the commission who did not collaborate or work together to present maps, in the expectation that the legislature would get its way in the end. We can do better. We either need to update the existing law to create an improved system, or begin anew. An independent system, with strong judicial review, and strong checks and balances that ensure that a single set of maps is created is important, and we should look towards the recommendations of the good government leaders like Citizen Union and the Brennan Center on how we can improve the process that played out for the first time this last cycle.

## 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)**

I support having a new, truly independent body, draw new legislative district maps, in a way that takes in public input in a fair and good faith way, and is composed of set of commissioners that can represent the needs of the people and not solely who appointed them, using defined criteria such as equal population, Voting Rights Act compliance, communities of interest, and compactness. No more than one third of the commissioners should be from one of the two major parties. The process should start with enough time to really bring in community input, and do so transparently with civic organizations, focusing on underrepresented communities. We can improve the system we have, and I support bringing back to the voters a better model. Our legislators should not be drawing their own maps, and I will push back on any version of legislative redistricting that is legislator-led.

For Congressional redistricting, I favor the same approach, but with the qualification that the current approach would not be changed to this new approach until a majority of House seats across the country are also being drawn by truly independent bodies. This will give an incentive for such changes in other states and also avoid “unilateral disarmament” for my party.

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# 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.

This is a grassroots campaign that rejects all donations from corporate, real estate, carceral (including police union), fossil fuel, and real estate sources. Accepting donations from those sources would be antithetical to our mission to uplift working people. Small donor matching will help level the playing field for grassroots candidates like myself refusing dirty money, and I would be honored to participate in that system in 2024.



# 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: People in our district are drowning from out-of-control rising rents, struggle to find safe and affordable housing, and face harassment from their landlords when they advocate for their rights. I plan to: Give every renter the right to renew their lease by passing the Good Cause Eviction bill in Albany; Pass legislation to hold landlords accountable for repairs and upkeep without passing the costs on to tenants; give tenants the right to make the first offer when their building is up for sale, putting properties in the hands of the people and not luxury developers; end tax breaks for luxury developers and ensure mortgage relief for small property owners; and fully fund NYCHA and provide rental assistance to homeless people so that every New Yorker is guaranteed a safe, dignified home.

Second: Healthcare: My wife suffers from a chronic illness, and watching the profit-driven closure of our local hospital devastated my family and propelled me into healthcare activism. So many people in our district cannot access the healthcare they deserve. I believe it is vital that everyone have access to free, high quality medical care that puts residents' health and well-being first even if it's not profitable for wealthy shareholders. In Albany, I will: pass and implement the New York Health Act, which will provide comprehensive healthcare free at the point of service to everyone living or working in NY; place a moratorium on hospital closures; guarantee fair pay and dignified working conditions for home care workers; prohibit new for-profit nursing homes that put profits over patients' health and safety.

Third: Climate: The same corporate interests that pollute our neighborhoods with asthma-inducing dirty air and plastic trash are fueling the climate crisis. Our community has suffered multiple devastating storms in the last few years; it is urgent that we transition to renewable energy. In Albany I will: Clean up the trash in our streets by funding sanitation services and driving initiatives to reduce waste; protect against floods, build environmentally-friendly energy plants, and create tens of thousands of good, union jobs by passing the Green New Deal for New York; end New York's addiction to fossil fuels and create thousands of good, union jobs by building publicly-controlled renewable energy sources like wind and solar farms; clean up the air our children breathe and put an end to "asthma alleys" by transitioning to renewable energy.

**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?**

Legislation banning evictions without good cause. Here in New York, the eviction moratorium just expired and thousands of New Yorkers are at risk of losing their homes. We must act fast to ensure that our neighbors can stay in their homes.

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

The top three issues of the campaign listed above are intended to address some of the major issues impacting the people of district 21. There are many others such as equitable quality education, support for immigrants, reproductive rights, LGBT rights, criminal justice reform, equitable taxation and reducing the influence of money, and of a political machine beholden to money, in politics.

Above and beyond the issues mentioned, I will make an active effort to put the office into the community. I intend to run canvasses to talk to voters and provide information directly to people based on their individual needs. As good as the mailers a senator gets to send can be, they're no substitute for talking one on one with people, and I intend to recognize that by doing constant organizing out in the district to both inform my constituents about what is going on, but also to learn what their chief concerns are.

**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.**

In 2020 I volunteered for a NAACP-led effort to register voters and to "GOTV" for the census, getting people to fill out the census, and have also participated in many GOTV efforts. I've also been a longtime supporter of the Wolf-PAC, an effort to get big money and special interests out of politics at the national level.

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

9 years

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

Prior to redistricting I was a few blocks outside of the district (where I have lived for 9 years)

**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?**

Our win number is 22,000. We are on track to hit that win number. We are currently turning out 100 volunteers per week and plan to ramp up to 125 shifts per week. We've raised over \$110,000 in small donations from a wide donor base. We envision being able to fund more than double that amount by the end of the campaign through additional small-donor fundraising.

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

111,000

**How many individual donors do you have?**

1,563

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

Working Families Party, New York Communities for Change, Indivisible BK, Run For Something, Food and Water Action, The Jewish Vote, New York Progressive Action Network, New York City Democratic Socialists of America, and Assemblymembers Phara Souffrant Forrest, Marcela Mitaynes, Zohran Kwame Mamdani, and Emily Gallagher. Full up to date list available at [davidforbk.com](http://davidforbk.com)

# ADDITIONAL INFO

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

**We are fighting to**  
**Nap fe tout sa nou kapab pou**



**Tax the rich**  
Nap goumen pou takse milyonè ak bilyonè yo



**Build tenant power to stop evictions and hold landlords accountable**  
Nou vle bay lokatè yo pouvwa pou yo pa degèpis yo enjistman



**Provide high-quality, free healthcare to all New Yorkers**  
Bay bon kalite asirans medikal gratis pou tout moun nan New York



**Create union jobs and build healthy neighborhoods with a Green New Deal**  
Nap kreye djòb sendika atravè yon Green New Deal



**Protect and strengthen unions, and win fair pay for workers**  
Plan nou an se pwoteje ak fòtifye sendika yo ak yon salè jis pou tout travayè yo



**Make CUNY tuition-free again**  
Nap goumen pou retounen kolèj leta (CUNY) gratis ankò

David will not accept any real estate, fossil fuel or corporate money.  
**He is only accountable to us, the people.**  
**Vote by June 28, 2022**

David pap aksepte okenn lajan nan men konpayi gaz fosil oswa dévlopè batisman kay yo. **Li rann kont bay pèp la sèlman.**  
**Vote le 28 Juin 2022**

**Proudly endorsed by:**







**davidforbk.com @david4bk** PAID FOR BY DAVID FOR STATE SENATE



## David Alexis

Democrat for State Senate District 21



**FLATBUSH  
FLATLANDS  
KENSINGTON  
MIDWOOD  
DITMAS PARK  
IS FAMILY**

**David Alexis** is the proud son of two Haitian immigrants, a product of New York public schools, a husband and a father. He fights for everyone like they're his family. Because for David, **Flatbush is family.**

**Vote David in the Democratic Primary by June 28, 2022!**

**Vote pou David le 28 Juin 2022**

**davidforbk.com @david4bk**

## **What else would you like us to know about yourself?**

I am the son of two hardworking Haitian immigrants, I am the father of two amazing little girls, I am a working-class New Yorker, and I'm running for State Senate in District 21.

After my first daughter was born, I knew I could not stand by while our leaders ignored us. And so, for the past five years, I have organized my community to make sure we aren't defenseless, even as crisis after crisis threatens our livelihoods, our safety, and our health. Now, I am running for State Senate to return this district back to the people so that we're never again left to fend for ourselves.

People in this district have struggled. We've learned the hard way that if you're Black or Brown in this city, you have to work twice as hard to get by. I started my career as a home health aide, working 12-hour shifts taking care of the elderly for about \$100 a night. My wife has sickle-cell anemia and my children have similar health complications. Every time a hospital downsizes their sickle-cell care, every time we go to battle with our insurance, every time we ask family and friends to once again help with childcare as we navigate a health crisis, it is glaring obvious that our healthcare system does not value Black lives. So, I joined the Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patient Network to organize with others to force our leaders to value our lives. Corporate polluters have exacerbated environmental racism, creating "asthma alleys" throughout the district. This inequality was made personal for me when my daughters and I developed asthma at the same time. As a result my family and my neighborhood are even more vulnerable to COVID-19. So I began organizing with environmental activists to demand that our leaders, particularly Kevin Parker, stop ignoring climate change and act to make public, clean energy a reality in New York.

Saddled with debt and declining employment prospects, many of my neighbors turned, as I did, to rideshare driving. We quickly found that we were exploited, unable to make a living wage. So I began organizing fellow drivers, eventually creating the largest employee-owned coop in the country, the Drivers Cooperative.

I've organized to take on Goliath before. I'm ready to fight Goliath again in Albany after having seen how the state's systems — for healthcare, environmental justice, labor, housing, and more — have failed us. Because I've lived, not just seen, the struggles common to so many people in our district, I will never leave working people here behind. I want to use the powers of the state government to do what I've been doing for the past four years — to organize my community so everyone can have a better future.

**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](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org)

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