

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Candidate Questionnaire - 2022 Primary

Dear Danyela Souza Egorov,
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public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).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
We thank you very much for your response.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name

Danyela Souza Egorov

Office Sought (New York State)

Senate

District Number

29

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

Education

Master in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

I have over 10 years of professional experience in business, government, and nonprofits, with a focus on strategy, advocacy, and management. Founding Board Chair of Brooklyn RISE Charter School. Vice President Chair of Community Education Council District 2.

Website danyelafor.ny.com

Twitter [Danyela4NY](https://twitter.com/Danyela4NY)

Facebook

[danyelaforny](#)

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 "D. Stearns".

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?

Yes, Brooklyn RISE Charter School. I would resign from the board if elected.

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.

Yes, Brooklyn RISE Charter School. I would resign from the board if elected.

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.

Everyone should have to petition or no one should have to petition to get on the ballot.

Remove the signature requirement for ballot qualification.

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.

We have one party with a supermajority dominating the state and if the constitutional requirement is removed there currently is no way to prevent total domination of the BOE by one party. I am interested in hearing CU's solution to this.

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)

I believe the process should be non-partisan and a means of achieving this would be via computerization to draw districts that meet the criteria.

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.

While the NYC Campaign Finance Board has its issues, it's run in a non-partisan way. The state needs a similar body, one with stronger teeth to eliminate fraud regarding public financing.

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: School choice for all New Yorkers

Second: Revisit the recently enacted bail reform laws and pass more laws that help reduce crime

Third: Make it easier to open and operate businesses in NY state to generate more jobs and income

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?

My first piece of legislation would be a school choice law that allows families to choose which schools their kids go to

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

My district needs more public safety; a real economic recovery not dependent on federal stimulus; and better schools. I will meet these needs via legislation and constant interaction with constituents.

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.

I have advocated against the D-210 regulation that tried to limit speech of CEC members (See: <https://nypost.com/2021/12/08/dont-let-bill-de-blasio-silence-parents-critical-of-city-education/>)

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

7 years

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

Yes, however, the district lines have changed. I was in SD26, now in SD29.

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?

Win number: 15000-20000

Engage door to door, building to building, both personally and via volunteer and professional canvassers. We know our message resonates with people in the district.

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

Current fundraising is \$16,000.

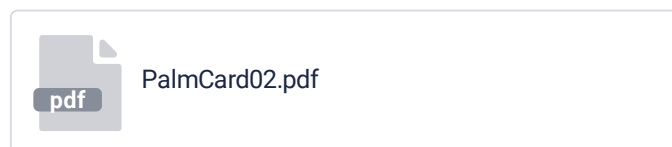
How many individual donors do you have?

Almost 200

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

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?

My bio: Danyela Egorov has over 10 years of professional experience in business, government, and nonprofits, with a focus on strategy, advocacy, and management. Ms. Egorov has worked at Families for Excellent Schools, California Charter Schools Association, New Leaders, and Boston Public Schools. She started her career as a management consultant at McKinsey & Co., has a Master in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School and is the Founding Board Chair of Brooklyn RISE Charter School. Ms. Egorov is passionate about supporting educators who are creating great schools for the most vulnerable children. She has worked on opening 12 charters and district schools. Danyela grew up in Brazil and lives in New York City with her husband and two sons. She is the chair of the Early Education Committee of CEC 2.

- My husband and I are immigrants and we feel very blessed to raise our kids here in NYC. But I have been appalled by what happened to our city in the past 2 years and how our elected officials did not prioritize kids during the pandemic. My main priority in the NYS Senate will be to support policies that put children first. Education has been my passport for a better life and I have worked with school choice for over a decade. I grew up in Brazil and have experienced the impact of violence in society, I will work hard to support Mayor Adams' efforts to recuse crime and change the laws that are making us unsafe. Finally, I will continue working to perfect our democracy and ensure that our government functions well and in service of New Yorkers. My husband is from Ukraine and, as we worry on a daily basis about his family's safety, I feel even more urgent the privilege of living in America and the responsibility to work to strengthen New York and America.

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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