

## 2023 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

Dear candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run for a seat on the New York City Council! Citizens Union appreciates your commitment to serving the public.

This form includes six sections with questions about your positions on various reform issues and your plans for the office:

- Serving constituents
- Elections and voting
- Campaign finance
- Oversight of City Hall
- Police accountability
- City Council rules
- There are also questions about the candidate's bio and the campaign

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](#).

You can learn more about Citizens Union's policy agenda in our [issues section](#).

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**If you wish to be considered, please submit this questionnaire by Tuesday, March 14, 2023.**

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 cannot see your answers unless you submit the form.

You can also download a blank questionnaire [here](#) and email it to us.

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public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).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

### Candidate info

**Name** Sukhjinder Singh Nijjar

**Running for Council District number** 29

**In which primary** Democratic

**Age** 44

**Education** College

**Occupation** Trader

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

2022 candidate for district leader in Dist.24., Sukhjinder Singh for NY, registration for local communities for upcoming elections. Public assistance form fillings, etc.

**Website** <https://www.sukhjinderfornny.com/>

**Twitter** <https://twitter.com/SukhiSinghforNY>

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

## Affirmations

**Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?**

**Have you qualified to receive matching campaign finance funds from the CFB?**

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

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union's endorsements)

## SERVING CONSTITUENTS

**1. For most New Yorkers, the most important thing their Council Members do is provide constituent services. How have you run your office (or for non-incumbents, how would you run your office) to serve your community's needs? Please give specific examples. What are the major problems in your district that require constituent services?**

We have provided our temple space for covid site for shots.  
We had served over 100k+ meals in pandemic for free.  
Provide our building for seminars for free for interfaith society.  
Many more...

**2. For incumbents: Which bill did you introduce, and most want to see passed? Why is that your top priority? For non-incumbents: If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would introduce in the new year? Why is that your top priority?**

I would work on introducing more funding bills for our schools and younger generations programs involving local political offices.  
We would work on creating a bill that can give us more safer Street by recalling bail reform.

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

I have no experience in that as of yet but I would love to join if I'm invited to participate and definitely stand by such governance body.

**4. What are your top three campaign promises or goals? Feel free to reference an answer to another question on this form rather than restate it.**

First: Say NO to any budget cut for Educational funding

Second: Commit to creating safer street by funding more educational programs to tackle hate crimes and violence

Third: Expand rent stability laws and tackle who take advantages of them

## **ELECTIONS AND VOTING**

**5. How would you describe the relationship between the City Council and the New York City Board of Elections? How will you use (or have you used) your power as a Council Member to improve the operations of the NYC BOE?**

Education and diversity is the key for most of the issues especially in ny queens. We would make sure I'm involved in selecting employees from varies of community

Citizens Union recently [published a report](#) about moving New York City's municipal elections to even-numbered years, so they would align with presidential or gubernatorial elections, showing this change could boost voter turnout, diversify the electorate, and save money.

**6. What is your position on that proposal to move New York City's municipal elections to even-numbered years and on the overall concept?**

It's probably the best option and it would also save our citizens tax dollars and we can use them somewhere better.

**7. Are you a supporter of Ranked Choice Voting? If so, how will you work to maintain this system and educate voters on how it works? If not, please elaborate on your position.**

Yes I do favour that, I believe it gives voters more power. I would advocate to make the information available in different languages and also in minority communities.

**8. New York City is one of few cities that maintains a closed primary system, in which only registered party members can vote in the election that typically decides who gets elected to office. Do you believe New York City should shift to a form of open primaries, allowing all registered voters to vote in the primary?**

No, because then there isn't any different between primary and general election.

**\* In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve elections and voting or increase competition in New York City's political system. Or, if you ran out of room in the fields above, you may continue your answers below.**

Registering voters on every single opportunity that I get.

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

**9. If you ran for office before, to what extent have Independent Expenditure entities ("Super-PACs") spent money in your race? Was it done in your favor or opposition of your candidacy?**

I have not taken any money from any super PACs.

**10. Individuals with business ties to city government and registered lobbyists can bypass their donation limits by "bundling" donations from other people, a loophole that can give insiders greater access to officeholders. Do you support banning bundling by people on the Doing Business with the City database?**

Yes, I strongly believe in that.

**\* In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to strengthen New York City's campaign finance system. Or, if you ran out of room in the fields above, you may continue your answers below.**

I would want board to be more resourceful and more funded so that they can work efficiently.

## **OVERSIGHT OF CITY HALL**

**11. For incumbents: Oversight of the administration is one of the most important roles of the City Council. Please describe how you used your position to ensure City agencies and City government are accountable to the people of New York.**

I would prefer them to be reporting more often what works for each department and what doesn't with more data and actual information.

In the last year, media reports have exposed potential ethical issues within City Hall concerning [conflicts of interest](#) among [top officials](#), the use of [public resources for private matters](#), [appointments](#) of friends and relatives, and [loosening transparency measures](#).

**12. How do you see your role as a Council Member in ensuring high ethical behavior standards and effective ethics oversight and enforcement?**

Once they found of breaking those ethics they should be removed from chair and banned for not be able to run again.

**\* In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve ethics in New York City government. Or, if you ran out of room in the fields above, you may continue your answers below.**

More often reporting with actual data would help us to change things and laws.

## **POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM**

**13. Who do you think should have the final say on discipline in the New York Police Department? How would you ensure that penalties imposed on police officers are commensurate with the gravity of their wrongdoing?**

It should be local law makers and on city levels it should be given more control to city councils also.

**14. What changes should be made to the independent oversight bodies to ensure they can effectively hold police officers who commit wrongdoing accountable (the Civilian Complaint Review Board, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD, the Commission to Combat Police Corruption)?**

They should be held accountable as well if their are study shows no improvements.

**15. Under the 2021 police reform plan, the City committed to expanding programs that effectively shift responsibilities from the NYPD to other agencies in areas like mental health, homelessness outreach, school, and youth, while investing in alternative models for community-driven public safety, such as Cure Violence programs. What do you think about the progress of these efforts? How would you improve policing in the City's various communities?**

These efforts to bring better policing is commendable and we should with times make efforts to do that.

**\* In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve police accountability, oversight of the NYPD, and police-community relations. Or, if you ran out of room in the fields above, you may continue your answers below.**

Hours on the job do make a lots of difference. Giving less over time and making sure that we still have enough presence on the street could be the key.

## CITY COUNCIL RULES

16. In December 2022, Speaker Adams proposed changes to the Rules of the City Council that would have potentially rolled back positive reforms related to bill drafting services and the power of members and committee chairpersons, among other issues. Although this proposal has been pulled, additional work is needed to make the Council a more democratic, effective, and open legislative body. What reforms would you like to see in the Rules of the City Council?

If that was very strong bill then we should try to bring that back and see if their are minor changes can be made and put it to work on maybe trial bases to see if that works.

## PATH TO VICTORY

What is your win number (the number of votes needed to win this race)? 3500

What are your current fundraising numbers? What are your fundraising goals? 250000

How many individual donors do you have? 200

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

I do not have any endorsements yet but I'm positive that I will have few in my hand after they see my policies and firm stand on them to actually be able to deliver.

## ADDITIONAL INFO

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

# TREAT ALL MANKIND AS ONE

"Sukhi" Sukhjinder Singh Nijjar isn't a politician - he's a concerned parent. His experience raising two daughters & a son in Queens opened his eyes to the deep inequities and issues in our city's education system which compelled him to run for City Council to fight for our future generation.

Sukhi has been a small business owner and devout community leader in Queens for 30 years. He has a profound understanding of people's concerns and is ready to be a true representative for the people of City Council District 29.



## SUKHI'S PROGRESSIVE PLAN:

- Vote "NO" on ANY city budget that cuts funding for education
- Commit to creating safer streets for all local communities by funding educational programs to tackle hate crimes & violence
- Expand rent stabilization laws & protections while cutting red tape for existing units to create more housing opportunities
- Ensure full language access in all city agencies and government forms in all languages spoken in District 29
- Support QueensLink to increase transit accessibility for central & southeastern Queens

Vote for **Sukhi Singh**

**VOTE JUNE 27TH, 2023**

**SUKHJINDER SINGH NIJJAR**

★★★★★



**CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 29**

**RICHMOND HILL - KEW GARDENS**

**FOREST HILLS - REGO PARK**

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT:**

 @SukhiSinghforNYC  
 @SukhiSinghforNY

**SukhiSinghforNYC.com**

PAID FOR BY SUKHI SINGH FOR NYC

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?**

I'm very dedicated public servant hoping to get a chance so that I can serve our locals and also bring positive changes for better living.

**Please review your answers by clicking PREVIEW ANSWERS below.**

**At the bottom of the preview page, you can**

- get a copy of your answers by clicking **PRINT**, and
- submit the questionnaire by clicking **SUBMIT**.

**IF YOU DO NOT CLICK SUBMIT, WE WON'T RECEIVE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE.**

Once you click **SUBMIT**, you will receive a confirmation email. *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)