



2023 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

THIS IS A BLANK QUESTIONNAIRE – YOU CAN SEND IT WITH YOUR RESPONSES TO
CANDIDATES@CITIZENSUNION.ORG OR SUBMIT IT ONLINE [HERE](#)

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.

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public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).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

All fields marked with * are required and must be filled.

Candidate info

Name Stanley Ng

Running for Council District number: 43

In which primary: Democratic Primary

Age: 63

Education: I am a product of the New York public school system. I received a Masters Degree of Computer Methodology from Baruch College in the CUNY system

Occupation: I am currently retired and live on a fixed income. I worked as a computer programmer for 30+ years. When I retired in 2020, I worked running Food Banks here in the city such as UA3 and COPO.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement: District 20 CEC Community Education Council CCHS Citywide Council for High Schools

Campaign contact information

Website sng4ny.com

Twitter: n/a

Facebook: Stanley Ng Campaign

Instagram: @SNG4NY

Affirmations

Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?* Yes

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

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

Yes (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?

People want transparency from their elected officials. I am not a career politician and I'm running as a political outsider to represent the residents of my district, not the political machines or political insiders. A major challenge in CD43 is that our district is primarily made up of immigrants, many of whom are unaware of how their local elected officials serve them (or which office handles various situations). I would make it a point to take proactive steps to reach out to constituents and inform them of what my office can do for them on a regular basis and have regular officer staff who can communicate in chinese languages. I would adjust my office hours to meet working residents schedules by having expanded nighttime and weekend hours so working people have the time to meet and call our office. I will make use of social media to have direct contact with my constituents. My office will have regular town hall meetings with constituents in the district to hear from them directly.

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?

There is a grave problem of hunger facing all New Yorkers. Food prices are at an all time high due to inflation. I would like to propose a bill to establish a permanent food bank here in district 43 to provide relief for working families and low income elderly residents. No one should be forced to choose between putting a roof over their head and providing healthy and good quality meals to themselves or their family. I would introduce a bill to establish a permanent food bank here in district 43 so residents do not have to travel outside of the district to receive free or low cost food.

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.

My background in community activism is primarily in education advocacy. However, the entire reason I'm running for elected office is because I believe in the importance and strength of governing from the bottom up. This was never about reaching a rung in the ladder or a box to check off. Good government means having an elected body that is diverse, innovative, and held accountable to their individual and collective constituencies.

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.

My campaign has 3 major legislative priorities. Number one is increasing funding for public safety to help combat anti-Asian and anti-semitic hate crimes, secondly i want to fully fund public schools and provide school choice for parents and lastly I want reduce costs here in district 43 by establishing a permanent food bank so low income families and elderly residents have access to low cost or free food staples. I would like to advocate for programs to promote aging in place to provide stabilized rent for elderly residents in district 43.

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?

I believe that the relationship is not transparent enough between the city council and the Board of Elections. I want the City Council to communicate more directly with the Board of Elections to ensure that the city has maximum participation in our local municipal elections. There also needs to be more communication between the BOE and the voters directly, especially the inclusion of more bilingual employees for the Chinese community including Mandarin and Cantonese speakers at poll sites to help explain ranked choice voting.

6. 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.

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

I agree with the proposal to shift New York City elections to even numbered years to be aligned with all other state and federal elections. It makes the voting process more streamlined and gives one less thing that voters have to worry about in off election years. Since most voters know that there are already congressional, state senate and state assembly elections in even years, I believe it just makes common sense to move municipal elections to even numbered years since voters are already headed to the polls for other statewide and congressional elections.

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.

I am a strong supporter of ranked choice voting. I believe it promotes a more democratic and fair process for unknown candidates to make their voices heard. It also democratizes every New Yorker's vote and gives the average voter a stronger voice in city wide elections. Since ranked choice voting is still fairly new in New York City I would like both the Board of Elections and the City Council itself to promote more literature and online tools to help explain the process of ranked choice voting. I would expand the distribution of more Bilingual literature and voter pamphlets in Chinese to explain the process to our non-English speaking Chinese residents. This I believe will promote more voting among our Asian residents here in this newly created majority Chinese district in South Brooklyn.

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?

I believe that all voting New Yorkers deserve their voice to be heard in all elections. An issue that myself and my campaign have been constantly running into is that people are energized and excited to vote for any one of the three candidates in the Democratic Primary but they can not since they are not registered as a Democrat. Asian NYers have the highest rate of "blank" or "unaffiliated" party affiliation of any group in NYC. The reality is that in NYC a large share of the elections are decided in the Primary meanwhile almost 40% of Chinese NYers are registered blanks so their voices are not being heard. It's imperative that the city council provide an avenue for people to vote on the issues without being hampered by the party affiliation.

*** 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.**

If an open primary system is not feasible, we must extend the deadline to change party affiliation so voters unaware of their party status are able to re-enroll and vote in the subsequent Primary election. The current date of mid February is simply too far out.

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 am not an incumbent. In my campaign however, our campaign has not received any donations from Super Pacs. We are funding a grassroots campaign with donations coming mostly from small dollar donations.

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?

Endless dark money in politics is a major problem with not just politics in the city of New York but all over the country. One way that large donors try to accrue more influence over our electoral system is through bundling. I agree with the sentiment that bundling donations gives an unfair advantage to wealthy business insiders to elected officials. I support banning bundling by wealthy business interests because it gives an unfair advantage to wealthy interests over the average voting citizen. I also support the banning of these bundlers from doing business with city databases.

*** 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.**

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 am not currently a sitting city council but I do believe that City Council needs more transparency and accountability. All residents here in the city need accountability and transparency from their elected officials. To make the City Council more accountable and more transparent I would change FOIA laws to make city records available to the average citizens, allow for more access to city council public meetings and OML (Open Meeting Law) to be conducted via zoom, 3.

12. 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](#).

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

Our elected officials must lead by example and must ensure that there is accountability in City Hall and other city wide departments. As many legislatures do all over the country, our role on the council is to provide oversight and a check on the executive i.e. the Mayor. With oversight comes investigating possible conflicts of interest within the city executives and the council itself. It is imperative that we on the city council fight for the voters and residents of New York to combat corruption and ensure transparency. We are the elected representatives of the people of this city and we are there to ensure that their tax dollars are not wrongfully wasted or squandered when they could be heading to those in need

*** 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.**

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?

We need to work hand in hand with the police commissioner in city hall. They have the means to regulate problems within the department and I do not think the city council has a role in unilaterally regulating another department in that way.

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)?

I believe we need to give the CCRB more power to investigate and prosecute police misconduct cases

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?

All New Yorkers deserve fair and equal treatment under the law including the right to due process, a fair and speedy trial and humane conditions while in detention. I support the idea of restorative justice in theory but in practice I believe that the city has relinquished some of their key responsibilities in dealing with domestic violence calls and other more social services related calls. The police should work more side by side with these social services and not let social workers go into dangerous situations alone. Police should serve as a support role to these social services but not be absent from these types of calls all together.

*** 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.**

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?

There are a number of reforms I would support including stricter standards for recusal and conflicts of interest, improving the public notice requirements for Council meetings to give constituents adequate time to attend, increased transparency surrounding the budget process, and more.

PATH TO VICTORY

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

Our goal is 50.01% of round 1 votes. Our turnout model predicts a voter turnout of 3,100 so our goal is 1,550

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

We are about \$2000 dollars away from full matching funds from the city.

How many individual donors do you have?

400+ Individual donors have contributed to our campaign

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

We are running a grassroots campaign and we are actively working with community leaders, activists and advocates to ensure that this a campaign by and for the residents here in district 43. We have a number of exciting endorsements we have yet to roll out, so stay tuned!

ADDITIONAL INFO

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

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

My name is Stanley Ng and I am running for city council district 43. I am a retired computer programmer, father of 3 children and have lived in Dyker Heights for 30+ years. I decided to run to make city hall accountable to you, the voters. I am not a career politician and do not represent the political clubs or work for the political machines in city hall. I am running on three major platforms, Public Safety, School Excellence, and Everyday Affordability. I want to fully fund our local schools, make sure residents feel safe in their community and reduce costs of housing and basic food staples.