



Sunday, May 16, 2021

Citizens Union 2021 Candidate Questionnaire - City Council

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run for New York City Council!

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. The form includes five short sections: serving constituent, elections and voting, police accountability, council rules and procedures, and miscellaneous.

Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for city offices, 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 April 17 and no later than 48 before your interview.

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.

**

If you cannot complete the questionnaire in one sitting, you can click Save and Continue Later 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public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).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

Your Info

Name

Hailie Kim

Running for Council District number

26

In which primary

Democratic

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

Democratic

Age

28

Education

BA Literature SUNY Purchase, MA English Hunter College , CUNY

Occupation/Employer

Hunter College, CUNY

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

No Previous Elected Office,

Campaign Contact Information**Website**

<https://www.hailiekimforcitycouncil.com/>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/hailie_council

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/hailiekimforcitycouncil>

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

Yes

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

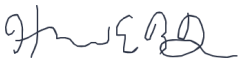
Yes

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

Yes

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

Signature



SERVING CONSTITUENTS

1. For most New Yorkers, the most important thing that their council members do is provide constituent services. How would you run your office to serve your community needs? Please give specific examples.

Constituents services start with ensuring that my staffing represents the diversity of my district. That includes offering internships to local students with a focus on diversity hiring. Language access will also be a core value. Far too many times people hesitate to reach out for help because of language barriers. My office, like many others, will strive to address each constituent's concerns as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. But we also want to serve the forgotten. So, in order to protect immigrants and protect New York as a sanctuary city, my district office will have constituent services provide contact information for free legal services for immigrants, and actively work with coalition partners such as community groups and local churches to help organize immigrant communities with information in Bengali, Spanish, Korean, Polish and Chinese to know their rights And I will also commit to visit constituents who are incarcerated as needed.

2. If you served as an elected official, what did you do to help your constituents during the Covid-19 pandemic? Please be specific.

During the pandemic I was not an elected official.

Yet, I rolled up my sleeves and worked with a wide variety of mutual aid organizations in my district. I volunteered with food pantries at Mosaic Church's Community Center, Sunnyside-Woodside Mutual Aid's Woodside Houses pantry as well as one offs with LIC-Relief and Urban Upbound.

3. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running for office?

This district has been home since I was 5 years old.

4. If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce?

Unemployment is currently 10.7% in Queens. The first piece of legislation we need to pass would be the establishment of a new City agency to provide basic fixed wage public service jobs with full benefits. These jobs will be targeted to people who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed; they do not replace the City's professional staff. Workers will be assigned to new or expanded programs, some of which may be administered by community orgs but funded by the City, while others will be managed by appropriate agencies - for example, green initiatives under DEP or arts projects under DCLA. The number of jobs created depends on the funding; a \$1 billion program, for example, could employ as many as 25,000 residents. It is tragic that we accept unemployment and the suffering that it causes when so much important work is not being done. Rep. Pressley has introduced H.Res.145, a resolution "to create a Federal job guarantee ... to finally eliminate the moral and economic scourge of involuntary unemployment". Only the federal government has the financial capacity to truly guarantee employment, but a sizable standing City jobs program is feasible and would have tremendous benefits. If designed to be compatible with H.Res.145, such a program could set an example to build support for the federal program, and could rapidly scale up to a full guarantee when federal funding becomes available.

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

5. How would you describe the relationship between the City Council and the New York City Board of Elections? How will you use your power as a council member to improve the operations of the NYC BOE?

The City Council needs to prioritize passing legislation that would remove the built-in partisan power structure via the appointment system to BOE leadership. BOE Commissioners/Leaders should be voted on by New Yorkers and not selected by Party Bosses.

6. Do you consider yourself a supporter of Ranked Choice Voting? How will you work to maintain this system and educate voters on how it works?

Ranked Choice Voting gets my full support. Outreach to voters needs to match the outreach efforts put forward for 2020 US Census. Additionally, we need to ensure that language access is deployed in every district across the city.

7. The next City Council will appoint members to the city's redistricting commission and decide whether to approve or reject the commission's districting plans. In doing so, future council members will be responsible for shaping a fair political map for the coming decade. If elected, what would your approach be in proposing or voting to appoint commission members, and in considering proposed district maps?

Redistricting is very consequential work and must be done in an apolitical fashion. My hope would be that this work could be done in such way that it would cause as little destabilization to the district.

8. Now that New York City has implemented Ranked Choice Voting, do you support moving to an Open Primary system (eliminating party primaries and establishing a non-partisan election system)?

Yes

Comments

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Citizens Union has been studying police accountability and performance in New York City for more than a decade. In our reports and advocacy efforts we have urged city government to strengthen the accountability of the New York Police Department to the public and create a more cohesive system of police oversight. Previous reports include: [2016 issue brief](#), [2013 position brief on Stop and Frisk](#), [2012 report on the CCRB](#), [2008 policy statement on police misconduct](#). Citizens Union's 2021 agenda for police reform, [published as a report](#) in March, calls for establishing a Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, allowing the CCRB to appeal the Police Commissioner's decisions, making the appointment of Police Commissioner subject to advice and consent of the City Council, consolidating agencies with oversight authority, ending qualified immunity, and more.

9. Do you support making the appointment of the Police Commissioner subject to the advice and consent of the City Council?

Yes

Comments

10. Who do you think should have the final say on discipline in the police department? How would you ensure penalties are imposed on police officers that commensurate with the gravity of their wrongdoing?

Currently, our Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) are, like our Community Boards, appointed and serve merely an advisory role. Turning the CCRB into elected positions, and having a stipend to support the campaigns of low income folks who want to run, will make the process more equitable and more democratic. Once we do this, turning the CCRB into a real check on the police unions would help ensure that their recommendations are given more weight. Power for enforcing punishment for officer misconduct will move from the police commissioner to the CCRB. Once this is achieved, they, not the unions, will be in charge of the police.

11. Do you support consolidating the three bodies that exercise oversight of the NYPD: the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the Inspector General for the Police Department, the Mayor's Commission to Combat Police Corruption?

Yes

Comments

Yes I do support the consolidation of these three bodies. As with many attempted efforts to reform police violence/corruption the idea that more is best is a failing policy. The CCRB should be the sole body that provides this oversight.

12. Do you support giving the CCRB prompt and full access to footage from body-worn cameras, police officers' employment history and disciplinary records and all other document and materials in the possession of the NYPD relevant to its investigations?

Yes

Comments

Yes. In order to fully investigate they need full access to all relevant material.

13. Feel free to add any other policy proposals you support in regards to police accountability, misconduct, and oversight, or to effective policing including functions, training, and community relations.

Redistribute 3 billion dollars from NYPD into social programs that have been proven to reduce crime. Public education, mental health and addiction services, as well as jobs programs, are what we need to prioritize, fund and make accessible to all, especially people in underserved communities.

Demilitarize the NYPD.

Ensure no rollbacks of the chokehold ban. Currently, an amendment is being proposed at the City Council to rethink the "diaphragm" section of the bill to ban police.

Ensure that social workers trained in de-escalation become the first responders for all cases involving someone who is mentally ill or homeless. Police simply aren't trained to deal with mental health crises, so it only makes sense to let social workers trained in de-escalation handle such situations.

End the school-to-prison pipeline. Exclusionary discipline (suspension and expulsion) and police presence in schools are the primary drivers of the school-to-prison pipeline, by which students are channeled toward crime and incarceration by the very institution that should be protecting them and supporting their socialization. NYC DOE is encouraging restorative justice practices as an alternative to exclusionary discipline. The next step is to get police officers out of our schools and replace them with social workers, mental health

professionals, and other care workers. This emphasis on student care would bring schools back into alignment with their core educational mission.

No special treatment for police officers. Residency requirements for police officers have not been shown to improve policing, but there is also no justification to give officers special exemptions from standard requirements

HOW CITY COUNCIL WORKS

One of the first items on the next City Council’s agenda will be adopting its rules of proceedings. Those rules will have a substantial effect on the ability of lawmakers to advance their goals, and can send a signal to New Yorkers about elected officials’ commitment to making the Council more representative, deliberative, accountable, and efficient. In the last decade, the Council took important steps to reform its rules, including a 2014 overhaul by then-Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and a 2018 administrative change by Speaker Corey Johnson. These reforms have made the body more democratic, given members a more meaningful role in the legislative process, ensured greater equity in the allocation of discretionary funding, and made drafting procedures more transparent. Still, more work is needed enable members to function more effectively and independently of the speaker, and to increase public participation.

14. Do you support allowing bills with strong support to go through the committee process and put to a vote on the floor without needing the permission of the speaker?

Yes

Comments

15. Do you support reducing the overall number of committees so members can participate more meaningfully in fewer issues?

Yes

Comments

16. Do you support making all actions designed to influence any City Council outcome, including the choice of speaker, reportable as a lobbying expense?

Yes

Comments

17. The Council Speaker controls the allocation of a large share of the Council’s overall

discretionary spending, and in 2020 it was reported that the Speaker used this power to “punish” council members who opposed the 2021 budget. How would you balance control and order in the council with reasonable dissent?

It has become apparent that the role of Speaker needs to be eliminated. It is clear that a role with that much power can only lead to corruption.

18. The ability of citizens and advocates to make their voices heard in City Hall has been severely curtailed since the council and city government shifted to work remotely. How would you propose to improve community engagement and public participation while using remote technology (in public hearings, meetings, etc.), particularly to ensure equity in participation?

This is a three pronged solution: A) Ensuring Universal Internet Access B) Establish a Citywide Technology Engagement Program for Seniors and all other communities experiencing a lack of access to basic technology proficiency C) Vigorous outreach to support both of these efforts. Too often these programs require people to opt in which means they know about the programs. We need to proactively reach out to each household.

MISCELLANEOUS

19. New York City has suffered an immensurable loss from the pandemic and its effects and the city’s economy, social life, and culture. What is your path to recovery from this crisis?

Economy - Build support for the state level INVEST IN OUR NEW YORK ACT. This collection of sensible tax increases on the wealthiest New Yorkers is the surest path to both get us through the Covid budget crisis and fund additional priorities such as building and prioritizing social housing, universal after school and tuition free CUNY, fix our crumbling train stations, and community based organizations that have always filled the gaps before during and now after the pandemic.

Employment - Public service employment as antidote to unemployment. We need a sizable

standing City jobs program and we believe it is feasible and would have tremendous benefits.

Small Business - Pass the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA). This vital legislation would give commercial tenants the right to 10-year lease renewals, with arbitration when landlord and tenant can't agree on terms. Even before Covid the rent burden for small businesses was becoming untenable in many parts of the city, and today the need to create long-term stability for small business owners is undeniable.

Environment - Green New Deal Infrastructure Investments beyond the long term benefits, will provide a short-term economic stimulus to bring us out of the Covid recession more quickly.

The Arts - Public rehearsal spaces. Unsurprisingly, the expense of rehearsal space in New York is a real burden for artists and arts organizations. For Covid relief, the City Council recently created the Open Culture program which allows performances, rehearsals and classes in certain streets next summer. This is welcome, but the problem predates Covid and deserves a more comprehensive and permanent solution. There are public outdoor spaces throughout the city that are little used, and commercial spaces that stay empty for months at a time. We should explore options for making some of these spaces available for rehearsals and other creative activities.

20. 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.

Worked with Nodutdol advancing issues of LGBTQUI work in the Korean Community including but not limited Trans visibility in the korean community and Trans voting rights.

Addressing food insecurity through her Mutual Aide work with food pantries at Mosaic Church's Community Center, Sunnyside-Woodside Mutual Aid's Woodside Houses pantry as well as one offs with LIC-Relief and Urban Upbound.

21. 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: A more equitable education for all New York City public school students

Second: Increase Affordable housing and homeownership

Third: Pass the Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA)

ADDITIONAL INFO

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



“I grew up in this neighborhood and went to school here, and I see the challenges you’re facing. I’m sick of those in power telling us to demand less. We demand more.”



Education Equity

Reduce the burden the city places on working parents by funding universal afterschool programs and 3-K in all school districts. Fully fund every school equally, so that our kids get the high-quality education they deserve.



Affordable Rent and Homeownership

Ensure truly affordable housing for all, by implementing Universal Rent Control, fully funding public housing, creating a path to homeownership, and imposing a fee on corporate landlords for empty units.



Quality Transportation

Make all our transit options faster, more accessible, and safer, so we can get where we need to go easier. Fix our crumbling subway stations, and build more dedicated bus and bike lanes.



Invest In Our City

Fund the social services and public investment we need by establishing the first New York City Public Bank, increasing taxes on the wealthiest millionaires & billionaires, and transferring 3 billion dollars from the NYPD budget.



Universal Healthcare

Too many New Yorkers go without the quality medical care we all need, we want to expand public healthcare, increase funding, and make private hospitals more affordable.

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What else would you like us to know about yourself?

I'm an educator, teaching at Hunter College, a working class New Yorker, and an immigrant. I grew up in Sunnyside, the daughter of a nail technician and small beauty supply shop owner. They worked long hours at manual labor jobs, and the one thing they thought would help me rise, the one thing that gave them hope, was my education. The message they instilled in me about the importance of education and community stuck, because even as a teenager, I volunteered in my community.

Education, for me, has been a form of advocacy and activism. Teaching at Hunter College, I see the effects of an underfunded education system on the future of my students every day. I am a Democratic Socialist, I believe that there should be a minimum level of living standards in society and the state should intervene to make sure everyone is taken care of and has their basic needs met, and that justice and equality are upheld.

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 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.