

# 2023 Voters Directory

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Vote on Tuesday, June 27 • Vote Early June 17 - 25

**CITIZENS  
UNION**  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**A NONPARTISAN GUIDE  
TO INFORMED VOTING**

**Primary Election**



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# Citizens Union Preferred Candidates

2023 PRIMARY ELECTION

## DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

### Brooklyn

#### City Council District 43

1. Susan Zhuang
2. Stanley Ng
3. Wai Yee Chan

### Manhattan

#### City Council District 1

1. Susan Lee
2. Ursila Jung
3. Chris Marte

#### City Council District 9

No Preference

### Queens

#### City Council District 26

1. Julie Won

#### City Council District 29

1. Lynn Schulman



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## CITIZENS UNION MISSION

Citizens Union (CU) is committed to reforming New York City and State government to foster accountability, accessibility, transparency, honesty, and the highest ethical standards. For the past 125 years, we at Citizens Union have devoted ourselves to holding our local governments accountable to do better in all of these areas, and we remain committed to enfranchising all New Yorkers. Some of our current initiatives include restructuring the city’s election calendar to boost turnout, monitoring the new state ethics watchdog, and expanding access to absentee voting. In all of these efforts, we have been — and will remain — nonpartisan.

Stay up to date with the latest happenings of the CU team and our work by liking our [Facebook](#) page and following us on [Twitter](#).

## THE VOTERS DIRECTORY

This June, New Yorkers will vote in the primary election for the New York City Council, the Bronx District Attorney, and the Queens District Attorney. Judicial and party positions will also be on the ballot. Other elected offices of New York City Government- including the mayor, public advocate, comptroller, and the borough presidents - are not up for reelection this year.

To help our supportive Citizens Union members prepare to vote, Citizens Union has been publishing an annual Voters Directory for over a century. The current edition provides a roster of Citizens Union’s preferred candidates in several key races, and information about the rigorous evaluation process and assessments of candidates.

We caution voters that there may be last minute elimination or reinstatement of candidates on the ballot, so the list contained in this directory may have changed since this document was printed.

For more information, visit the NYC Board of Elections website at [vote.nyc](http://vote.nyc) or call (866) VOTE-NYC.



# Primary Election Overview

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2023 is a unique off-year election. Because City Council districts were redrawn last year following the decennial census, all 51 members of the City Council are now completing a shortened, two-year term. This year, they can run to represent these newly-drawn districts for another two-year term. Council Members will be able to run for a full, four-year term in 2025.

Citizens Union worked to ensure the Council redistricting process was fair, open, and independent, and supported hundreds of New Yorkers in getting involved with the elaborate mapmaking project.

Two Council seats are “open” this year. District 43, a newly-created district in southern Brooklyn, will be filled for the first time following this election. In District 9, which covers Harlem, the incumbent Council Member announced she would not seek reelection. Her name will still remain on the ballot.

The 2023 June primary ballot also includes races for county district attorneys, civil court judges, and party positions.



# Uncontested Incumbents

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Of the 51 seats on the New York City Council, 34 incumbents (two-thirds) are running uncontested in their party's primary election. In addition, the Staten Island District Attorney is running uncontested.

The following incumbents are running uncontested in their party's primary election this year:

## Bronx

**Council District 11**  
Eric Dinowitz (D)

**Council District 15**  
Kevin Riley (D)

**Council District 16**  
Althea Stevens (D)

**Council District 17**  
Rafael Salamanca (D)

**Council District 18**  
Amanda Farias (D)

## Brooklyn

**Council District 33**  
Lincoln Restler (D)

**Council District 35**  
Crystal Hudson (D)

**Council District 36**  
Chi Ossé (D)

**Council District 37**  
Sandy Nurse (D)

**Council District 38**  
Alexa Avilés (D)

**Council District 39**  
Shahana Hanif (D)

**Council District 40**  
Rita Joseph (D)

**Council District 44**  
Kalman Yeger (D, R)

**Council District 45**  
Farah Louis (D)

**Council District 46**  
Mercedes Narcisse (D)

**Council District 47**  
Justin Brennan (D)



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## Manhattan

### **Council District 3**

Eric Bottcher (D)

### **Council District 4**

Keith Powers (D)

### **Council District 5**

Julie Menin (D)

### **Council District 6**

Gale Brewer (D)

### **Council District 7**

Shaun Abreu (D)

### **Council District 8**

Diana Ayala (D)

## Queens

### **Council District 19**

Vickie Paladino (R)

### **Council District 20**

Sandra Ung (D)

### **Council District 21**

Francisco Moya (D)

### **Council District 24**

James Gennaro (D)

### **Council District 27**

Natasha Williams (D)

### **Council District 28**

Adrienne Adams (D)

### **Council District 30**

Robert Holden (D, R)

### **Council District 31**

Selvena Brooks-Powers (D)

### **Council District 32**

Joann Ariola (R)

## Staten Island

### **Council District 49**

Kamillah Hanks (D)

### **Council District 50**

David Carr (R)

### **Council District 51**

Joseph Borelli (R)



# Candidate Evaluation

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## OVERVIEW

In a low-profile election year with most elected officials on the ballot running uncontested, Citizens Union has evaluated five key primary races for New York City Council to determine what candidates strongly support our issues, can advance a reform agenda, and can best fulfill the obligations of the position.

Interview teams made up of Local Candidates Committee members assessed the candidates based on their responses to Citizens Union’s questionnaire, independent research, first-hand knowledge of the candidates, and interviews with the candidates. The result of that evaluation is detailed in this Voters Directory, which Citizens Union has been publishing as a guide to its supportive members for over a century. All interviews and meetings were held by video conference.

A “Preferred” rating reflects a candidate that Citizens Union deems not only qualified for the office, but also a viable candidate, committed to an agenda of positive reform. Please note that candidates not preferred may nevertheless be highly regarded, which is generally reflected in the commentary. To encourage voters to use Ranked Choice Voting in the upcoming primary election, Citizens Union issued ranked preferences in some of the races.

Citizens Union issues a “Preferred” rating in primary elections, and an “Endorsed” rating for General Election contests. A “No Preference” rating may result when there is insufficient information available, it is believed that the candidates are of equal merit, or if no candidate interviewed by Citizens Union is believed to be effective or capable of representing the district. A “Dual Preference” designation may be offered to two qualified candidates, but not a “Dual Endorsement.” A “Dual Preference” shall be used only as a last resort, and, in the case of such determination, CU shall explain its reasoning in its Voters Directory.





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## **OUR CRITERIA**

The following guidelines are used by the Local Candidates Committee and Citizens Union Board of Directors in the evaluation of candidates:

- Support for Citizens Union’s reform agenda is the primary criterion used in deciding our support for a candidate.
- Other criteria considered in evaluating candidates and campaigns:
  - » A record of ethical integrity.
  - » Commitment and ability to advance CU’s goals, if elected
  - » For incumbents: demonstrated support for CU’s issues while in office
  - » Evidence of ability to wage an effective and competitive campaign
  - » Reliance on small-donor, local financing of the campaign
  - » Candidates’ grasp of issues specific to the race’s jurisdiction, and whether they propose thoughtful solutions to represent constituents’ interests

Evaluation of the candidates and the decision to support a particular candidate shall be made without regard to political party and in a nonpartisan manner.

All candidates questionnaires can be found online at [citizensunion.org](https://citizensunion.org).  
All races below refer to Democratic primaries.

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## Brooklyn

### **COUNCIL DISTRICT 43**

*Bensonhurst, New Utrecht, Dyker Heights, Sunset Park*

Over the past ten years, the city has seen the addition of 345,000 Asian Americans. This “Asian opportunity” City Council district links the neighborhoods of Sunset Park, Dyker Heights and Bensonhurst and has a 54% majority-Asian population. There has never been an Asian City Council member from Brooklyn.

### **Susan Zhuang** ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st Choice*

*Age: 37 Occupation: Chief of Staff, Assembly Member William Colton (District 47)  
Education: Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (B.S.), SUNY Oswego (M.A.), University of Southern Indiana (M.B.A.)*

Susan Zhuang has worked for William Colton, the longtime Assembly Member who represents some of the neighborhoods in this new council district, since 2015 and she is now his chief of staff. She has told CU that her work in the Assembly taught her how to “cut through the red tape” while building a strong constituent services operation. If elected, Zhuang’s top priorities would be to improve public safety by increasing the number of Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking officers, expand school programming for special needs and gifted students, and address quality-of-life and affordable housing for seniors. In her candidate questionnaire answers, Zhuang supported most of CU’s reform priorities but differed on the question of open primaries, saying it could allow improper actors to interfere and weaken general election candidates’ appeal. Zhuang supports improving transparency within government and called to establish an independent ethics oversight agency with power to investigate pay-to-play issues and big corporate spending. CU was impressed with Zhuang’s emphasis on constituent work, her understanding of needs in the district, and her ability to elucidate the interplay between issues like public safety, education challenges, and language barriers. Citizens Union believes she is well suited to navigate city government to leverage resources for her community. We therefore prefer her in this race.



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## Stanley Ng ■ *Ranked 2nd*

Age: 63 Occupation: Retired Computer Programmer

Education: Baruch College (B.A., M.S.)

Stanley Ng is a retired computer programmer who has lived in Bensonhurst and Dyker Heights since the 1980s. He became involved in politics through education advocacy around the impact of the Department of Education’s Specialized High School Institute program and served on the Community Education Council of District 20 and the Citywide Council for High Schools. Ng’s top priorities are addressing rising anti-Asian and anti-Semitic hate crimes, fully funding public schools, and building a food bank to ameliorate food insecurity among immigrants and seniors. Ng supports all of CU’s reform priorities in his questionnaire answer and identified additional reforms to improve the transparency of local government. For example, he wants to improve the availability of records under New York’s Freedom of Information Law. However, he differed from Citizens Union on the approach to disciplining NYPD officers. A political outsider, Ng impressed Citizens Union with a refreshing approach and a notable understanding of city politics in the context of reform. We rank him 2nd in this race.

## Wai Yee Chan ■ *Ranked 3rd*

Age: NA Occupation: Executive Director at Homecrest Community Services

Education: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (B.F.A.), Columbia University (M.A.)

Wai Yee Chan is the Director for Homecrest Community Services, a community center and service provider for Asian immigrants and seniors in Southern Brooklyn. Prior to that, she was Council Member Justin Brannan’s Director of Community Engagement. Chan has lived in Queens for the past decade, although she noted that she is now moving to this council district. If elected, her top priorities include improving language access of city services, fully funding public schools, and addressing the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes by prioritizing public safety. Chan was largely supportive of all of CU’s reform priorities in the candidate questionnaire on issues like voter participation, ethics, and BOE reform but did not present to CU specific plans or details on how reform issues would more broadly impact the diverse communities within her district. We rank her third in this race.



# Manhattan

## COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

*Chinatown, Financial District, Little Italy, the Lower East Side, NoHo, SoHo, South Street Seaport, TriBeCa & Washington Square*

### **Susan Lee** ★ *Preferred Candidate, Ranked 1st*

*Age: 44 Occupation: Grant Writer*

*Education: Barnard College (B.A.), NYU (M.P.A.)*

Susan Lee has extensive experience in the nonprofit industry. She is the founder of the Alliance for Community Preservation and Betterment, an organization aimed at improving the quality of life in Chinatown. Prior to that she worked as a Program Manager of Development for Asian Americans for Equality and served on the board of several other nonprofits. She first ran for this council district seat in 2021 and came in 5th out of 9 candidates. Her top priorities in this race include improving public safety, expanding educational opportunities for gifted & talented students, and constructing more affordable housing. She has campaigned on a platform that aims to “re-conceptualize” policing from a community perspective, improving transparency and accountability, and increasing funding for social service professionals. Lee supports all of CU’s reform priorities in the candidate questionnaire and signaled she would focus on improving ethics oversight. If elected, she intends to seek a seat on the Committee on Oversight and Investigations and make a log of her meetings publicly available. Citizens Union believes Lee would be a champion of the reform agenda on the Council and was impressed by her understanding of her community’s issues and plans to address them in office. We prefer her in this race.

### **Ursila Jung** ■ *Ranked 2nd*

*Age: 46 Occupation: Private Investor*

*Education: St. Stephens College (B.A.), SOAS University of London (M.A.), Columbia University (M.P.A.)*

Ursila Jung is a private investor and longtime resident of downtown Manhattan. She serves on the Community Education Council and was an active member of the PTA for her kids’ schools. This is her first foray into electoral politics, and she is running as a candidate inspired by the core American values of “grit, perseverance, and determination” willing to build partnerships across political divides.

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If elected, her top priorities include fully funding the NYPD to improve neighborhood safety, improving sanitation, and supporting small businesses. Jung supported most of CU's reform priorities in the questionnaire, except for a ban on bundled donations by lobbyists, claiming that the Campaign Finance Board's system is already difficult for political outsiders to navigate. Citizens Union was impressed by her knowledge of and concern with local issues.

## **Christopher Marte** ■ *Ranked 3rd*

*Age: 34 Occupation: City Council Member (District 1)*

*Education: Long Island University (B.A.)*

Christopher Marte has represented lower Manhattan since being elected to the City Council in 2021. Previously, Marte worked as a legal researcher at an immigration law firm and as a State Director for Arena, which provides training for people seeking to run for office. As a Council Member, he has sponsored 16 bills, including legislation requiring simultaneous translation for Council meetings, although none of his bills have passed and he does not chair a committee. In this campaign, his top priorities include ending the 24-hour workday for home care workers, opposing luxury development and gentrification in Chinatown, and securing more funding for education. Marte supports most of CU's reform priorities in the candidate questionnaire, disagreeing over open primaries but conceding that changes to party affiliation should be easier for voters. He differs from CU in his support of an elected Civilian Complaint Review Board. He believes the Council should make more use of its subpoena power to compel testimony, given how often City agencies fail to provide requested information, and wants members to have more background information on officials they are asked to appoint. Citizens Union values Marte's commitment to political reform and accountability but is concerned about his ability to advance these goals given his legislative effectiveness in office over the past two years. Therefore, we ranked him third in this race.

## **Pooi Stewart**

*This candidate did not respond to Citizens Union's questionnaire*



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## **COUNCIL DISTRICT 9**

*Central Harlem, Morningside Heights, Upper West Side, East Harlem*

### **No Preference in the Race**

Citizens Union has interviewed all candidates running for this position, and after carefully considering the pros and cons of every candidate, we have decided to issue an unusual No Preference decision in the Democratic Primary for Council District 9.

## **Inez Dickens**

*Age: 73 Occupation: Assembly Member (District 70)*

*Education: New York University (degree not reported), Howard University (degree not reported)*

Inez Dickens comes from a long line of dedicated public servants working for Harlem and has herself worked in politics for nearly 50 years. Since 2017, she has served as the Assembly Member for District 70, which overlaps with this council district, and for the 11 years before that, she held the City Council seat she is now seeking. Dickens says she is doing so after community members approached her, upset about the survival of the community following Covid and issues with the incumbent member. If elected, Dickens would prioritize creating affordable housing through income-targeted development, strengthening small businesses as well as improving education and sanitation. Dickens has been part of leadership on the Council and the Assembly, and currently serves as Deputy Majority Leader, and this political prowess means that she is well positioned to bring deliverables to Harlem. She is not as focused on reform issues, although she has occasionally worked on CU priorities; she currently co-sponsors a bill to facilitate absentee voting in cases of illness and was behind Council legislation to expand annual disclosure reporting requirements. She disagreed with several of Citizens Union's reform priorities, including on an empowered Civilian Complaint Review Board, and most importantly, she voiced strong opposition to ranked-choice voting. However, she stated she would not attempt to repeal it if elected and appeared open to further discussion on the topic. Citizens Union appreciates Dickens' continued dedication to public service and her desire to leverage her experience to improve the lives of her community.





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## Yusef Salaam

Age: 49 Occupation: Self-Employed

Education: Dutchess County Community College (A.A. & A.S.)

Yusef Salaam is best known for his unjust arrest and subsequent conviction for rape and assault in the infamous Central Park Five case, now known as the Exonerated Five. After serving seven years in prison for a crime he did not commit, his sentence was overturned. Since then, Salaam has written a book about his experience and works as a motivational speaker and activist fighting for police reform and against mass incarceration. He currently serves on the board of The Innocence Project and founded Justice 4 the Wrongfully Incarcerated. If elected, Salaam’s priority issues include building affordable housing, expanding health services, improving education, and tackling public safety issues through leveraging mental health resources. Salaam supports all of CU’s reform priorities in the candidate questionnaire—though he did not offer specifics—and has an extensive history advocating for police reform. Citizens Union believes that Salaam’s high profile and energy would give him a greater voice on the Council than other rank-and-file freshmen.

## Al Taylor

Age: 65 Occupation: Assembly Member (District 71)

Education: Lehman College (B.A.)

Al Taylor has represented the 71st Assembly District – covering parts of Hamilton Heights, Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood - since being elected in a 2017 special election to replace Denny Farrell, the powerful Assembly lawmaker. Prior to this, Taylor was Farrell’s longtime Chief of Staff, a District Leader, a minister, and a community advocate. While serving in the Assembly, Taylor has sponsored and passed several election and police reforms, including moving up the absentee ballot application date, requiring more early voting sites and extending their hours, and establishing a law enforcement misconduct investigative office under the AG. His legislative record also includes votes against abortion protection measures, although he has since said he has come around to support access to reproductive healthcare. A former Board of Election officer, Taylor told CU that the NYC Board of Elections needs to become less politicized and that clear benchmarks for hiring and managing are needed at the Board. He agreed with most CU



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issues on the candidate questionnaire and voiced strong support for ranked-choice voting. If elected, Taylor’s priorities include subsidizing affordable housing development, increasing education funding, and improving public safety while reducing overspending in the NYPD. Citizens Union was impressed by Taylor’s support for and track record on improving election operations and addressing police accountability and believes he can bring together stakeholders to discuss important housing concerns for this district.

## **Kristin Richardson Jordan**

Citizens Union also interviewed the incumbent Council Member, Kristin Richardson Jordan. Richardson Jordan announced that she was leaving the race and would not seek reelection, but because the deadline to certify the ballot has passed, her name will remain on the primary election ballot.

# Queens

## **COUNCIL DISTRICT 26**

*Sunnyside, Woodside, Long Island City, Astoria, Dutch Kills*

### **Julie Won** ★ *Preferred Candidate*

*Age: 32 Occupation: City Council Member (District 26)*

*Education: Syracuse University (B.A.)*

Julie Won was elected to the City Council in 2021 among a crowded field of 15 candidates. Citizens Union preferred her in that race, noting it was “impressed by her vision for the district, her forceful responses, and her familiarity with the issues.” That is no less the case today. In office, Won kept her campaign promise to provide free Wi-Fi to NYCHA residents in her district. Additionally, she has utilized her position as Chair of the Committee on Contracts to subpoena nonprofits contracted by city government to ensure quality provision of services. Her top priorities are to address affordable housing and increase funding for schools, parks, and city services. Won supports all of CU’s reform priorities and highlighted areas where she sees room for improvement: decoupling NYC BOE appointments from party politics; utilizing restorative justice practices to direct resources to stem repeated violations by the NYPD; addressing the City Council’s inefficiency by recruiting staff from boroughs with high unemployment. Her proven track record, detailed knowledge of city operations, and specific plans to address shortcomings and other inefficiencies again impressed Citizens Union. We prefer Won in this race.

### **Hailie Kim**

*Age: 30 Occupation: Adjunct Professor, SUNY Old Westbury*

*Education: SUNY Purchase (B.A.), Hunter College (M.A.)*

Hailie Kim is an adjunct professor at SUNY Old Westbury and a former grassroots community organizer at MinKwon Center for Community Action. She has launched a Hate-Free Zone initiative to address the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes and has led Know Your Rights trainings. She ran for this council seat in 2021 and is seeking that office again because of what she describes as her frustrations with the current Council, including budget negotiations, which do not provide funding for community needs. Her top priority is to address unemployment through the implementation of her New

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York Quality of Life Corps jobs program. In addition, she aims to create affordable housing using social housing models and fully fund education from pre-K to CUNY. Kim is a strong supporter of Citizens Union’s reform priorities and self-identifies as a reformer.

## **COUNCIL DISTRICT 29**

*Forest Hills, Kew Gardens, Richmond Hill*

### **Lynn Schulman** ★ *Preferred Candidate*

*Age: 65 Occupation: City Council Member (District 29)*

*Education: NYU (B.A.), Brooklyn Law School (J.D.)*

Lynn Schulman has been involved in the civic affairs of her community for more than a quarter century, serving on the local community board, precinct community council, community education council, chamber of commerce, as well as working for several council members, including former Speaker Corey Johnson. She ran for this City Council seat three times - Citizens Union supported her in 2009 – until winning a competitive election in 2021. Schulman, who previously held posts at the Woodhull Medical Center and the Gay Men’s Health Crisis, chairs the Council’s Health Committee and focuses her legislative work on healthcare issues. She passed legislation establishing a citywide diabetes reduction plan and helped to pass the Council’s response to the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision, which added protections for abortion access. If elected, her top priorities include protecting hospital capacity, improving education by fast tracking and expanding the 3-K program, and developing in-district senior housing. Schulman supports most of Citizens Union reform agenda though she has reservations and wants more analysis done on implementing even-numbered municipal elections and open primaries. She stressed the importance of conducting oversight and seems to have taken a real interest in seriously reviewing nominations before the Council. Her interview reflected her deep knowledge of policy issues and commitment to upholding the high standards of the office. Citizens Union prefers Lynn Schulman in this race due to her established track record as a public servant and strong support of reform.



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## Ethan Felder

*Age: 35 Occupation: Labor Lawyer*

*Education: Cornell University (B.A.), Washington University in St. Louis (M.B.A. & J.D.)*

Felder is a union lawyer and district leader born and raised in Forest Hills. After completing law school, he began working in the financial sector. Shortly after beginning his career, he had a change of heart and pivoted to practicing as a labor attorney. He worked at Koehler and Isaacs LLP, and later moved to 32BJ SEIU, the powerful service workers union, where he is currently Assistant General Counsel. As a lawyer, he has also worked on voting rights issues, representing pro bono the LeFrak City Tenants Association, which sued the NYC Board of Elections to prevent a local polling site from being moved just prior to an election. In a rare upset, he defeated an incumbent district leader in the 2020 primary and has served in the position since. He then went on to challenge Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi in the 2022 primary but fell short of winning. If elected, his top priorities include reversing educational budget cuts and reducing class size, advancing climate action, and improving public safety. He supports Citizens Union's reform agenda and said his top priority would be to work towards an "inclusive democracy," including by dismantling barriers to community participation in politics and decision-making. He stressed the Council needs to be firm on ethics oversight and said corruption is still very much endemic in municipal government. Citizens Union felt Felder was an impressive candidate who has the potential to go far in city politics and greatly appreciates his willingness to represent the people of his district.

## Sukhjinder Nijjar (Sukhi Singh)

*Age: 44 Occupation: Trader*

*Education: LaGuardia Community College (B.A.)*

Sukhjinder Nijjar, a small business entrepreneur focused on financial consulting, has been active in the civic affairs of the Southeast Asian community for decades. He is currently a member of the Queens District Attorney's South Asian Advisory Council and was the Media and Public Relations Chairperson for the Sikh Cultural Society from 2016 to 2019. Nijjar says he became involved in local politics following a spike in hate crimes against the Asian community. His top priorities include resisting budgetary cuts to education and



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promoting public safety through the implementation of after-school programs, as well as recalling bail reform. If elected, he pledges to give half of his first-year salary to local schools and community centers. Nijjar supports most of Citizens Union’s reform issues, particularly those regarding expanding voting rights. Citizens Union appreciates Nijjar’s commitment to serving his community.

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# Questionnaire

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This year, Citizens Union revamped the candidate questionnaire to include fewer Yes/No questions and more open-ended questions, with the goal of eliciting fuller, more nuanced responses from candidates. Therefore, this Voters Directory does not include a table of questionnaire responses like previous Voters Directories. Citizens Union will review this new format ahead of the 2024 election.

## **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?
- 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?
- 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.
- 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.

## **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?

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- 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?
- 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.
- 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?

## **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?
- 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?

## **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.
- 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?

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## **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?
- 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)?
- 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?

## **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?

# Acknowledgments

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This Voters Directory would not be possible without the hard work of members of the Citizens Union Board, Local Candidates Committee (LCC), staff and interns. 30 volunteer LCC members and staff members formed nonpartisan interview teams and evaluated 15 candidates in 5 races. We thank them for contributing their time, energy, and expertise to interviewing and evaluating candidates, especially during this challenging moment. We thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Voters Directory.



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