



Friday, September 29, 2023

## 2023 General Election 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 endorsement for the general election.

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 Wednesday, September 20, 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](#) (.docx file) 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public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).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

Ying Tan

Running for Council District number

43

Age

Education

Occupation

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

<b>Website</b>	yingtanforny.com
<b>Twitter</b>	https://twitter.com/YingTanForNY
<b>Facebook</b>	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090059211803

## 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?**

It is important to understand people's needs and wants directly from their words. I love to interact with people and have direct conversations with them. Many people are concerned about crime and safety. Middle-class seniors need to be protected and assisted, and there is a need for quality education. Homeowners are being treated unfairly, and many small businesses are closing down.

**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.**

I am not a professional politicians. I am a concern citizen who decided to make my voice heard.

**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: Fight for public safety

Second: Advocate for quality education and enhance Early Intervention services.

Third: Protect seniors and municipal retirees benefit

## 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?**

City council oversight and can improve municipal election .

This year, 2023, it ends up being a very low turn out race since we majorly have city council race this year. People are not quite motivated to vote. It is a good suggestion to move the city council race to even years and improve the participation.

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 is a good suggestion to move the city council race to even years and improve the participation.

### **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 not. It makes people confuse by a lot. Candidate spent a lot of time to explain what is rank choice. By making it simple, they just ask voters to circle their names. Election should be simple enough for regular people to understand.

### **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?**

Open primaries are not a good idea. It is a process for people within the same party to find the person with the best chance to win. By implementing open primaries, it essentially means there is no primary. On the other hand, a stronger party can also make great candidates in smaller parties disappear by voting on the other side.

**\* 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.**

## **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?**

There is already limitation. Instead of pushing them to find a workaround, it is better to do whatever it is now and make the contribution straight forward

**\* 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.**

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?**

City council is a very critical position that it oversee the city budget which directly affecting every residence in NYC. Holding a high morality can safeguard our tax payer money not being spent incorrectly.

**\* 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?**

Currently, the police department is already under a lot of restrictions. As a result, police cannot perform their jobs effectively due to the lack of qualified immunity. Indeed, we should listen to the feedback from the police department and find a way to ensure they can perform their duties in the most efficient 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)?**

Civilian Complaint Review Board is a very good department that handle complain of police officers.

**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?**

**\* 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?**

## **PATH TO VICTORY**

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

5000

**What are your current fundraising numbers? What are your fundraising goals?** 33,707.00

**How many individual donors do you have?** 503

**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.**

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

I came to the United States from Taishan in 2009 to study, was married, and now I am a mother of two children. I have always pursued the American dream and consider New York City my home. However, since the government began canceling Gifted and Talented programs and degrading quality education, I began standing with the crowd at demonstrations in 2018. Because I believe that teaching according to one's ability is the policy of education. However, things have slowly evolved, and now, not only education but also public safety is a problem. Crime has risen significantly every year, and criminals can get away with it without consequences. I am just an ordinary person who wants to settle down in New York City, but society makes me want to move forward, and the government has not seriously addressed this issue. For the sake of my family, my community, and justice for all, I have decided to run for office. I want to bring common sense back to the community!

**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)