
Anathea Simpkins

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Name Anathea Simpkins

Office Sought (New York State) **Assembly**

District Number 50

In which primary **Democratic**

What party line/s are you running under? **Democratic**

Age 52

Education MED in Education, U Mass Amherst

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement As a local mom I was on the school leadership team at PS 31. I volunteered to run the marathon twice for Sandy Hook Promise before joining the nonprofit organization, and raised \$10k for them. And I'm an active member of the North Brooklyn Angels, feeding our unhoused neighbors weekly.

Email contact@anatheaforny.com

Campaign Manager Name Victoria Cambranes

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Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?

Are you participating in the State Public Campaign Finance Program?

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

Signature



What are your top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected?

First: Housing: Expand affordable housing through legislation that supports the construction and preservation of low-income housing units, coupled with reforms to strengthen tenant protections and prevent displacement.

Second: Education: Increase funding for public schools to reduce class sizes, enhance special education services, and support the integration of comprehensive mental health programs. I'll advocate for equitable distribution of state education funds to ensure all schools have the resources they need.

Third: Transportation, full access to safe streets, equitable access and prioritization of vulnerable communities.

If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce? If you are an incumbent, what legislation have you passed which you are most proud of?

There are many pieces of legislation that have lingered when our previous Assemblyman Joe Lentol left office. For example, the standardization of care for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, or the adjacent neighbors bill of rights. Both of these reflect the lack of visibility for the real issues that don't make headlines but actually affect the lives of everyday constituents. As my first act however, I would like to introduce major

investment into our State mental healthcare programs, and ensure our education system is fully funded to provide a safe and nurturing place for students to pursue their education.

In providing constituent services, what are the major needs of your district's constituents and how will you meet them?

The person I am challenging has done a poor job in terms of constituent relations. Constituents tell me that their emails and phone calls go unanswered, and the district office is often closed, even during posted hours. At a minimum, constituents need to be able to get in touch with their Assemblymember and get a response.

Beyond that, there are whole segments of the 50th AD that do not seem to be on the radar of the incumbent: senior citizens, NYCHA residents, Spanish and Polish-speaking constituencies, and in general anyone who is not in hard lockstep with DSA policies. Many of these are the constituents who need help from their government representatives the most, which is why I would concentrate outreach to senior centers and NYCHA community centers, hire multilingual staff, make sure that all calls and emails get a response, and have my district office open 40 hours a week.

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

Throughout my career, I've been deeply involved in advocating for good government and reform issues, particularly in the realm of gun control advocacy. My work with organizations like Sandy Hook Promise has not only been about promoting safer communities through sensible gun laws but also about ensuring transparency, accountability, and public engagement in the legislative process. I've actively participated in efforts that required navigating the complex intersection of public policy, ethics, and community safety. These experiences have honed my skills in building coalitions, engaging with diverse stakeholders, and pushing for policy changes that reflect the public's will and protect our communities, demonstrating my commitment to good government principles. I am proud of my record of leadership on this critical issue, and I remain committed to fighting for a safer, more just, and more equitable New York for all.

How long have you lived in the district in which you are running?

17 years

1. Do you support moving city elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you vote in favor of legislation that enacts that change?

Yes

2. Do you support restarting the constitutional amendment process to enact same-day voter registration in New York?

Yes

3. Do you support improving voter participation in CUNY and SUNY colleges by requiring schools to develop and implement a student voter engagement action plan?

Yes

4. Do you support reducing the party-based hiring in boards of elections to the minimum currently required by the constitution?

Yes

5. Do you support implementing an open, competitive, merit-based hiring process for all election administration staff and certain functions at polls?

Yes

6. Do you support requiring election commissioners and top BOE staff undergo mandatory training developed by the State Board of Elections?

Yes

7. How would you use your power as a legislator to improve election administration in New York? Feel free to add any policy proposals you support in regards to reforming the BOE.

I would seek to be on the Assembly Election Committee. And, I would be meeting with the NYS Board of Elections to discuss issues of fair and clean elections. What distinguishes me from my opponent is that I would use my seat on the Committee and the Committees significant oversight powers to conduct specific policy reviews of the various divisions within the BOE, including its technology divisions so key in elections today. And unlike my opponent, I would take all precautions and consult legal counsel to avoid the myriad ethics violations that she is embroiled in.

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions.

8. Will you support fully funding new state public campaign finance program in the upcoming budget process?

Yes

9. Do you commit to opposing any attempt to undermine the State Public Campaign Finance Program by changing its rules to benefit large donors?

Yes

10. Do you support requiring campaigns to disclose a contributor's employer in campaign finance reports, as is done in NYC?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

11. Who do you think should draw new district maps every decade in New York? (e.g., the current Independent Redistricting Commission, the Legislature/LATFOR, a new body)

In line with the principles of fairness and transparency central to the democratic process, I believe that new district maps in New York should continue to be drawn by an independent body, such as the current Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). This commission should be truly nonpartisan and composed of members who represent a broad cross-section of New York's diverse population, including experts in demographics, civil rights, and election law, free from political influence or affiliations. The goal of the IRC should be to create districts that reflect the demographic and geographic realities of the state, ensuring fair representation for all New Yorkers, rather than serving partisan objectives.

To enhance trust in the redistricting process, the IRC's methodology and decisions should be made fully transparent, with ample opportunities for public input and feedback. This approach would help prevent gerrymandering, promote competitive elections, and ensure that communities of interest are kept intact, ultimately strengthening the democratic fabric of our state. If necessary, reforms to the IRC's structure and processes should be considered to ensure its effectiveness and independence, but the core idea of keeping redistricting out of the hands of those with a direct stake in the outcome—the Legislature—should be preserved.

12. Do you support changing the constitutional redistricting process to reduce the influence of legislators over map-making process, make the redistricting commission less partisan and more diverse, and eliminate the Legislature's veto power over final maps?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You

may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

13. Do you support establishing an independent ethics agency with commissioners not chosen by the elected officials they oversee, which would have oversight powers over the executive and the legislature (also replaces the Legislative Ethics Commission)?

Yes

14. Do you support requiring lobbyists to report their contributions and fundraising activity?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on ethics issues.

15. Do you support giving the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board access to certain sealed and confidential records in matters involving potential police discipline?

Yes

16. Do you support transferring disciplinary hearings involving police officers from the NYPD to the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions.

17. Do you support maintaining the Commission on Judicial Nomination, which recommends candidates for the Court of Appeals to the Governor?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions. You may also provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to advance your positions on these issues.

What is your win number (the number of votes needed to win this race), and what is your plan to achieve that number?

9,165 based on 55k total Dems at a 33% turnout.

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

\$58,084, with a total goal of \$75k

How many individual donors do you have?

251

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

We have the endorsements of IUPAT D9 Painters, UA Local 1 Plumbers, and Theatrical Teamsters Local 817, with a few more in the pipeline that have not yet been finalized.

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

What else would you like us to know about yourself?

This might be my first run for office, but I have always put my faith in democracy. As a teacher, I understood that I had a special job working for both my students and parents because every parent wants what's best for their children. My work in anti-gun violence advocacy has been built on the principle that everyone deserves a safe place to work and live, and if we can just get some of these basic protections in place then some of the other things that working people live and struggle with won't seem so insurmountable. I believe it is the role of government to tackle these types of issues because individuals cannot do it on their own. That's how I envision myself and my role in the Assembly.

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