
Emily Gallagher

50

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Name Emily Gallagher

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

District Number 50

In which primary **Democratic**

What party line/s are you running under? Democratic, Working Families

Age 40

Education Ithaca College

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

After a decade and a half as a neighborhood organizer for environmental justice and against displacement in Greenpoint, I was elected in a stunning grassroots victory for Assembly in 2020 and quickly got to work. Previous to this victory I was employed in education with a special focus on New York City and State History; I also served on Brooklyn Community Board 1. Through these experiences I learned about the campaigns in our community's history and the tactics and personalities that were able to deliver progressive change. I learned from this research and have been able to put these lessons to use in office. I have always been unafraid to challenge anyone when they betray bedrock principles and always speak out for civil rights and deeper democracy. Since being elected to District 50, I have been able to advance campaigns I worked on locally for a decade, including the redesign of McGuinness Blvd, progress toward the completion of Bushwick Inlet Park, and holding polluters accountable for their decades-long abuse of our local environment. Last year, I passed two first-in-the-nation policies, overcoming massive opposition from the oil and gas industry to enact the All-Electric Buildings Act, and the LLC Transparency Act to expose corporate corruption and secrecy. Locally, I've secured major investments for street safety and open space projects in

North Brooklyn, despite efforts by the Mayor to undermine them, while making sure state and city agencies are responding to constituent needs. I am vocal in my fight for good cause eviction, the New York Health Act, the Adult Survivors Act, and harm reduction policies that emphasize healing instead of incarceration. I am proud to say that I am delivering both the progressive vision of our state as well as my district, and I have become an active and recognizable progressive voice in statewide conversations on these issues. I am eager to continue this work.

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Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you participating in the State Public Campaign Finance Program?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are you willing to be interviewed by Citizens Union's Local Candidates Committee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Signature	

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

First: Nearly 80% of my constituents are tenants, and most don't have any kind of protection from price gouging and no-fault evictions. When they do try to look for dignified, affordable housing, there is none available. That's why I introduced legislation to create a Social Housing Development Authority, with the mandate and funding to build, acquire, and renovate deeply and permanently affordable housing for public and community ownership at the scale this crisis requires. It's also why I've been such a relentless fighter for "good cause" eviction protections, which would give tenants in unregulated units the ability to defend against unreasonable rent hikes and displacement.

Second: As a waterfront district, North Brooklyn also sits on the frontlines of the climate crisis, which is another high priority. I overcame massive opposition from the oil and gas industry to enact the nation's first statewide requirement that all new buildings (the largest source of emissions in New York) are all electric and don't add to the gas system. I've also introduced legislation to change how cities are able to manage stormwater flooding and dramatically scale up investment in resilient water-absorbing infrastructure, while also championing a suite of comprehensive climate legislation known as the Climate, Jobs & Justice Package.

Third: District 50 needs to have safer streets and better transit options for its residents. By making streets safer for pedestrians, we can also decrease congestion by expanding the availability and viability of alternative transportation options such as bikes, buses, and the subway. Expanding transit options creates safer streets, faster commutes, and a greener, more deeply-connected community.

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?

If re-elected I intend to continue my work advancing A9088, The Social Housing Development Authority, a public sector developer that can build and preserve affordable housing to meet the dire need that New Yorkers face faster, more efficiently, and at deeper levels of affordability than private actors, and with higher labor standards.

As an incumbent, the legislation I am most proud of authoring and passing is the LLC Transparency Act, which would create the nation's first public database of "beneficial ownership" information to hold accountable secretive companies violating the law. While the bill passed both chambers with bipartisan support, Governor Hochul significantly watered-down the legislation in chapter amendments before signing it, making the database of ownership information only available to state agencies and local governments. Nevertheless, when the law comes into effect, for the first time ever, regulators and law enforcement will know who owns anonymous LLCs operating in New York and be able to hold them accountable for violations of the law. Landlords who refuse to properly maintain their buildings, companies stealing wages from workers or abusing the environment, and sanctioned oligarchs buying up Manhattan real estate are now on notice. The final bill also creates new state authority to pursue and penalize LLCs who refuse to disclose their true owner. New York joins the international community and now leads among the states in tackling the rise of secretive shell companies as a serious policy concern with consequences for tenants, workers, government, and business.

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

In a district that's more than 80% tenants with soaring land values and intense speculative pressures, the major needs of my district are protections against displacement and the availability of affordable housing. Very often, residents will come to our office who've always been good tenants, some for decades, but now have to move because their landlord wants to raise their rent by hundreds or even thousands of dollars a month. If they're in non-rent stabilized units, they have basically no legal recourse. That's why I have fought so hard for Good Cause eviction protections and to find ways to build more permanently affordable housing, like the Social Housing Development Authority.

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.

The LLC Transparency Act, which I wrote and passed over significant real estate industry opposition, will allow state and local governments to hold accountable bad actors who violate or skirt the law by hiding their identities, increasing public trust. Anonymous LLCs are often used to violate the letter or at least the spirit of campaign finance laws—this will become significantly more difficult when the law comes into effect. I have also prided myself on being extremely transparent with the public about how power operates in Albany, the forces that shape government action, often in the shadows, and why democratic participation is so critical for good government. I'm proud to have defended and now be participating the New York State's public financing program for candidates. Prior to running for office, I was involved in efforts to reform the Brooklyn Democratic Party and in my own first campaign for Assembly, I doggedly fought to have every vote counted when the machine tried to disqualify mail-in ballots.

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

18 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

I introduced and am working to pass legislation (A1243) that would enact a series of reforms to standardize the terms and appointments of election commissioners and to provide the State Board of Elections with the ability

support in regards to reforming the BOE.

to remove commissions in an instance where they violate or neglected their duties or the state's election laws.

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)

The Independent Redistricting Commission

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?

Two years ago, in my first re-election, I won 80% of the vote in the Democratic Primary with just shy of 7,000 votes. I expect turnout to be roughly the same this June. I run an energetic and responsive office, and am well-known in the district. Along with an excellent campaign team, scores of volunteers, public matching funds and endorsements from a broad range of advocacy, labor and reform organizations, I feel confident I will repeat my performance from 2022 against a primary challenger with roughly the same politics (and funders).

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

We have raised approximately \$45,000 this election cycle, which will be leveraged into more than \$130,000 with public matching funds – far more than I had ever raised or spent in either of my prior two successful campaigns for Assembly.

How many individual donors do you have?

546

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

Endorsements at the bottom of the page
<https://www.emilyforassembly.com/>

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?

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