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# Eon Tyrell Huntley

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Name Eon Tyrell Huntley

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

District Number 56

In which primary **Democratic**

What party line/s are you running under? Democratic

Age 39

Education Product of New York City public schools, graduate of Parsons School of Design

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement For 3 years, from 2020 until the start of this 2023 school year, I was PTA president of my children's school. Before my shop shut down, I was a member of Workers United Local 340, and was a bargaining committee rep for our final contract.

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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 is my first legislative priority because it is a human right; all people deserve to live in safe, dignified, and consistent housing. District 56 is 77% renters and the ever increasing cost of rent has driven 22,000 Black residents out of my neighborhood in the last decade alone. Our current elected officials are accountable to real estate lobbyists and developers, and have stalled protections against price gouging and unjust eviction. We need to elect representatives, like myself, who refuse to take money from the real estate lobby and will work for tenants, the working class, and families. In New York, passing Good Cause Eviction is a critical step—we have to protect New Yorkers from unreasonable rent hikes and evictions so people can stay in their homes and not get priced out of the neighborhoods where they put down roots. Beyond Good Cause, we deserve safe and high-quality public housing. This includes increasing our investment in NYCHA and creating the New York State Social Housing Development Authority (SHDA) which was recently introduced to the assembly by Emily Gallagher. The SHDA would be a first of its kind, well-capitalized public authority charged with constructing new, permanently affordable, mixed-income housing and acquiring and rehabilitating existing housing to maintain permanent affordability.

NYS SHDA would have broad authority to build, acquire, and renovate housing that will be permanently affordable and democratically controlled. Landlords could end housing insecurity today. Instead, under a practice called 'ware-housing' they are keeping 60,000 rent-controlled apartments vacant while they await the Court decision on the legality of rent control. Returning these apartments to the market would fill a massive gap in New York's manufactured housing shortage. The passage of a vacancy tax would have the double effect of making this practice inhospitable to the real estate lobby while also providing millions of tax dollars with which to fund the construction of public housing. In addition to passing legislation, I would use my office to support tenant organizing in the district. Connecting tenants with constituent complaints to long term tenant organizing would help bring long term tenant power to the district. I will work with partners in the district, like Senator Brisport, Brooklyn Eviction Defense Tenant Union and the Crown Heights Tenants Union, to identify and address local needs, while forming relationships with upstate legislators and statewide groups, like Housing Justice for All, to understand the housing crisis upstate and fight for statewide solutions. I also commit to working with other tenant champions in the legislature to organize for a strong and comprehensive housing package that stops rent hikes, funds rental assistance and creates social housing.

Second: Education is of immense personal importance to myself and my family. I'm a product of New York City public schools, my daughters attend NYC public schools, and my wife was a public school teacher for 18 years. I was president of my daughters' school's PTA and I have seen first hand the results of decades of political willingness to underfund our schools. We need more funding for all levels of public education—primary, secondary, CUNY/SUNY, union apprenticeship programs, and early childcare. It makes no sense that public childcare arbitrarily begins at 4—what are parents and children supposed to do before that? Additionally, we need to provide more funding for CRSE (Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education). We need to do away with the discriminatory practice screening, tracking, and the high stakes testing of our students. Studies have shown what is observable in New York City schools, that these tactics have exacerbated inequity in what is already one of the most segregated school systems in the country. We also must stop the expansion of charter schools, make sure we invest in education as a public good for all students, and ensure fair pay, benefits, and working conditions for teachers and school staff.. The New York State legislature must fully fund public education, must adequately fund our public colleges and universities, which have long provided a path to the middle class for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, must adequately fund our adult education system, and must make childcare universal and free.

Third: New York is one of the wealthiest states in the country, yet we lack funding for vital needs like healthcare and childcare as well as other public goods. With our wealth we should be striving to model the possibilities of what government can be through providing free high quality healthcare to all New Yorkers. We can do that through higher upper-bracket income taxes, wealth taxes, and reforms to corporate taxation, among other measures. The pandemic highlighted how interconnected everyone's health is. Not only is healthcare an individual right, it is a social one that is fundamental to creating a productive and liveable society. I know the majority of the legislature has already signed onto NYHA, and that leadership has refused to actually bring it to a vote, likely to protect "supporters" who are not actually willing to pay for the bill. Therefore, I am committed to not only pushing for a vote, but to fighting to raise taxes on the wealthiest New Yorkers so we can fund the legislation, which would save most New Yorkers money by eliminating wasteful bureaucracy and insurance industry profits, and take away the terrible reality that most working people are only one health emergency away from financial disaster. I also have a significant personal stake in passing NYHA. For over a decade, my wife's teacher's health insurance provided reliable coverage for my children. Since she underwent a career change we have been

my children. Since she underwent a career change we have been left in an uninsured limbo. It is absolutely absurd and immoral that our government is simply okay with my kids potentially going without healthcare. I am lucky to have the time and financial resources to navigate the system and get my daughters covered, but many do not have that privilege. I know the stakes of this fight and am committed to demanding healthcare for all.

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?

My first priority is passing laws that help renters stay in their homes and provide stability and empowerment to our neighborhoods. It is wildly unjust that a person's landlord can refuse to renew their lease for no reason, and that landlords can hike rents arbitrarily. When elected I will be a champion of the New York Health Act. When the NYHA was first proposed in 1992 it was already a direly needed bill. In the preceding 30 years healthcare in New York has dramatically increased in cost while quality of care has decreased, and Black maternal mortality rates has become a crisis; New Yorkers need the NYHA now more than ever. . Every New Yorker suffers from the increasingly profit-driven nature of our healthcare system, and I strongly oppose profit incentives in healthcare (including in supposedly non-profit hospital systems that sometimes act like for-profit corporations). I support taking the profit motive out of healthcare entirely by enacting single-payer healthcare. I believe that healthcare is a human right and that everyone should have access to high quality, equitable medical care without having to incur crippling debt.

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

Assembly District 56, as I mentioned above, is 77% renters more than 1.5 times the average rate across New York, 46%, and more than double the national rate of 35%. In large part due to the increasingly impossible cost of rent, or the dream of homeownership, nearly 20,000 black residents have been forced from my district in the last decade alone. Much of the constituent services work of my office will include protecting constituents who are facing unjust rent hikes, lack of repairs, or eviction. My district is also home to over a dozen NYCHA developments, which are wildly underserved and underfunded. Additionally, many newly arrived migrants are sheltered in AD 56 and we will work to provide them with stable housing and good jobs.

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.

There's a class struggle that I know first hand. I am a middle class, hourly worker. I am a Black man raising two daughters in public school. In my life I have experienced and still experience the issues that Citizen Union seeks to address. I believe in order to truly have a government that responds to the needs of the people we need to elect people who will fight with the passion of someone who has experienced struggle and is ready to fight in solidarity with all the working class. Our current Assembly representation does not fight with that passion and it shows—she does not support the renter protections we need to keep our community whole and takes money from charter schools that siphon money away from our neighborhood schools. I am ready to truly stand up and fight for what my community needs.

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

I have lived in Bed-Stuy since 2009. I am a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, born in 1984 to a Brooklyn native mother. I have lived all over Brooklyn—my earliest years living with my grandmother and single mother in the Pink Houses, a NYCHA housing development in East NY, Brooklyn. We would later move to an apartment complex in another part of East NY. As a young adult, I moved out to Bushwick and then to Bed-Stuy in 2009.

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

Yes

requiring schools to develop and implement a student voter engagement action plan?

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.

Upholding and advancing the integrity of elections is crucial to ensuring that all New Yorkers have a meaningful voice and say in what happens in their communities. We need to pass the fair redistricting and voting rights ballot propositions that, subject to misinformation campaigns from Republicans, failed to receive majority support from voters in the 2021 elections. Former Governor Cuomo's party qualification changes also made it significantly more difficult for minor parties to qualify to remain on the ballot, thereby undermining the right of New Yorkers to vote for the candidate of their choice on the party line of their choice. In 2021, we saw widespread attempts, many of them successful, by bad faith conservative activists to raid the WFP ballot line. Righting these wrongs needs to be a major priority.

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)

My general position is that maps should be drawn by an independent body to reduce partisan influence. I am not sure if the current Independent Redistricting Commission is fully nonpartisan but it's a step in the right direction.

12. Do you support changing the constitutional redistricting

Yes

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?

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.

I'm a Black man and the father to two Black daughters. I want them to grow up in a world where they feel they can trust the people who we are told it is their job to keep us safe.

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

Win Number: 7,801  
Coalition Building

this race), and what is your plan to achieve that number?

This race has the potential to build a broad coalition of support. The incumbent is not particularly well known nor is she visible in the district on issues that matter to her constituents. This creates a strong opening to build with a variety of organizations and groups that care about issues affecting working-class residents, particularly housing issues, worker protections, and public schools. We have plans to connect with a wide variety of constituencies in the district, from unions to tenants associations to parent-teacher associations to churches, to build relationships and connect directly with voters. We believe we can consolidate progressive support (and become the clear progressive candidate), garner support from unions (particularly as a working-class candidate and former bargaining committee member), and make significant inroads with community institutions, such as churches and parents associations.

**Communications**  
This race is an opportunity to electoralize several issues that materially impact the working people of the district. For example, the incumbent opposes Good Cause Eviction, despite the district being 78% renters and unaffordable rents being a primary driver of gentrification and working-class families in the district. This is just one example of the incumbent's antagonistic attitude towards the real needs of her district. As a lifelong Brooklynite, father, renter, retail worker, and parent organizer I have the experience to advocate for working-class priorities and the drive to do so earnestly and passionately.

**Field**

We plan to run a robust field operation throughout the district. We plan to make 3-5 complete field passes of the district, having tens of thousands of one-on-one conversations with voters. We already have over 100 field volunteers and are canvassing four days a week. Our field strategy will pair with our coalition building strategy; identifying community surrogates to support our campaign will be key to shaping our door-knocking strategy.

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

Our campaign has raised around \$46,000 out of our goal of \$250,000 (\$175,000 in public matching + \$75,000). We have crossed the threshold to qualify for matching funds and we seek to max out our match eligibility. Thus far most of our funding has come from small-dollar donations and we intend for that to continue. Call time is going well and though we are still building our email list, that has also been a strong source of funds. We have launched a Peer to Peer and house party program. We will be focusing especially on in-district donors in order to max out the new matching funds program.

How many individual donors do you have?

We have 678 total individual donors.

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

We have been endorsed by NYC-DSA, Sunrise Movement NYC, State Senators Jabari Brisport, Kristen Gonzalez, and Julia Salazar, State Assemblymembers Marcela Mitaynes, Phara Souffrant-Forrest, Zohran Mamdani, Emily Gallagher, and Sarahana Sretha, and City Council Members Alexa Avilés and Tiffany Cabán.

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?

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Preview Before Submit

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