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# Micah Lasher

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Submitter

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Name Micah Lasher

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

District Number 69

In which primary **Democratic**

What party line/s are you running under? Democratic

Age 42

Education New York University, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, 2003

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

- Director of Policy, Office of the Governor of the State of New York, 2021-2023
- Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York, 2013-2016
- Director of the Office of State Legislative Affairs, Office of the Mayor of the City of New York, 2010-2012
- Executive Director of Public Affairs, New York City Department of Education, 2009
- Aide to Congressman Jerry Nadler, 2007-2008
- Chair (2019-present) and trustee (2014-present), Riverside Park Conservancy
- Trustee of the Community Service Society (2006-2021)
- Trustee of Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund (2018-2021)

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Campaign Manager Name Grace Safarik

Campaign Manager Email [grace@micahlasher.com](mailto:grace@micahlasher.com)

Scheduler contact info (If relevant)

Phone Number (817) 319-1987

Website [www.micahlasher.com](http://www.micahlasher.com)

Twitter @MicahLasher

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lasherforassembly>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/lasherforassembly/>

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: We must address the housing and affordability crisis in New York by dramatically increasing the supply of housing, while also fighting vigorously to protect the rights of tenants and preserve the affordable housing that we have. I was very proud to help craft Governor Hochul's proposed New York Housing Compact, and I would work hard in the Legislature to advance legislation along the same lines that would aim to spur housing production and overcome decades of racist, exclusionary zoning that has the effect of creating enormous economic pressure on all New Yorkers.

Second: I will fight for increased investment in mental health services, including more inpatient beds, supportive housing, and

outpatient services. I'll also work to make sure individuals don't fall through the cracks of the system, and to enact new laws and regulations that hold hospitals and insurance companies accountable for admission and discharge decisions that put patients first. I'll work to see through the expansion of school-based mental health services and the enactment of legislation to curb social media companies' use of addictive, algorithm-driven feeds.

Third: I will work with colleagues and legal experts to formulate legislative strategies in anticipation of, and in response to, actions by other states and the Federal government and decisions by the Supreme Court that aim to weaken New York State laws and liberties. I was proud to help craft the legislative response to the Dobbs and Bruen decisions and believe, unfortunately, that the need for work in this area will only expand in the years to come.

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?

I don't know if it would be my very first piece of legislation, but I am extremely interested in crafting legislation that would incentivize the timely completion of Local Law 11 work and the removal of sidewalk sheds that seemingly cover entire swaths of neighborhoods; likewise, I would like to pursue legislative strategies to discourage long-term vacancies in commercial storefronts.

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

The needs of this district are wide-ranging, and the district's residents are socioeconomically diverse. There are large NYCHA developments in the district, where residents live with the acute needs of public housing. Significant amounts of Mitchell-Lama and HDFC housing struggle with operational challenges, while tenants — both rent-regulated and market rate — face growing economic pressure. There are excellent public schools in the district, but real inequities exist between schools serving more affluent populations and those serving families with greater levels of need. We have wonderful parks and public spaces in the district, but there are chronic infrastructure, staffing, and resource needs. And the intersection of streetscape issues (scaffolding, vacant storefronts), crime, and mental health challenges have given rise to growing neighborhood concerns about safety.

There is no single answer to how best to help constituents with these issues. I will run a hard-working, diligent, competent district office, with full-time Spanish-speaking staff, focused not just on being responsive to constituents, but seeking them out. We will track follow-up, and establish systems (if the office does not already have them in place) to quantify how well we are addressing individual constituent requests and needs. At the same time, we will work to establish relationships with a broad array of organizations and stakeholders in the district so we can be proactive partners in helping them meet their needs and address local concerns.

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.

I have a long history of working on good government and reform issues.

In 2003, I worked closely with several members of the State Assembly to enact the first significant rules reforms in the Legislature in a generation, including the end of empty-seat voting.

In 2015, as Chief of Staff in the Office of the New York State Attorney General, I worked closely with Citizens Union to draft and advocate for the End Corruption Now Act, which was the Attorney General's omnibus reform legislation. It included sweeping campaign finance reform, with dramatically lower contribution limits, public matching funds, closure of the LLC loophole, pay-to-play restrictions, and an end to housekeeping accounts; a ban on outside income for legislators and an end to per diems, paired with an increase in legislative salaries; and substantial strengthening of the statutes and powers available to law enforcement to investigate and prosecute public corruption, including a grant of original jurisdiction to the State Attorney General. Many of these proposals, in some form, have become law in the intervening years, and I would look forward to working with Citizens Union to advancing those that have not.

I have also been proud to work with Citizens Union to expand the franchise. Specifically, following discussions with Citizens Union and a request from Suffolk County, the Attorney General's Office, during my time as Chief of Staff, issued a landmark opinion to allow for online voter

registration without a change in statute. There is a great deal more work to do to make it easier for New Yorkers to register to vote and cast their ballots – and it is work that I will focus on in the Assembly.

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

I have lived in this district continuously for the last 14 years; my family moved to the district when I was a teenager in 1995; and before that I live just a few blocks south of the district from birth through early elementary school.

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 support legislation to make the State Board of Elections more effective — including adding a fifth non-partisan commissioner to avoid gridlock and hiring a single Executive Director — as well as to give it greater authority over local boards. I would also support more funding and shared services for local Boards of Elections.

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)

I also believe that the State's public campaign finance program should include spending caps to which candidates must agree when accepting matching funds, akin to the requirements of the New York City program.

I support independent redistricting but believe that the makeup of the current Independent Redistricting Commission should be revisited to make it both more independent and more likely to produce agreement on lines that are, in turn, enacted into law.

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?

We expect 14,000 to 16,000 voters in the primary, and need to win a plurality of the total — with the goal of winning more than half.

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

We have raised in excess of \$100,000 and aim to raise in excess of \$200,000, in addition to State matching funds.

How many individual donors do you have?

We currently have in excess of 500 individual donors.

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

<https://www.micahlasher.com/endorsements>

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?

Preview Before Submit

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