
Joshua A Clennon

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Submitter

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Name Joshua A Clennon

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

District Number 70

In which primary **Democratic**

What party line/s are you running under? Democrat

Age 31

Education BS Pennsylvania State University

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement Treasurer and Chair of District Needs Manhattan Community Board 10
Candidate for NY City Council 2021

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Campaign Manager Name Martha Ayon

Campaign Manager Email marthaayon1@gmail.com

Scheduler contact info (If relevant)

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Website JoshuaClennon.com

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Have you completed the required campaign finance filings? Yes

Are you participating in the State Public Campaign Finance Program? Yes

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

Signature



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

First: Strengthening tenant protections and increasing availability of affordable housing

Second: Expanding access to maternal care

Third: Addressing root causes of public safety by expanding access to job training and higher wages

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 elected, the first piece of legislation I plan to introduce will focus on drastically improving affordable housing in Harlem. This will include measures to enforce stricter regulations on landlords to prevent unjust evictions, enhance tenant protections, and ensure truly affordable housing based on actual local incomes. Additionally, I aim to introduce legislation that supports homeownership opportunities for low-income families, helping to secure the community's economic future. My goal is to address the pressing housing crisis that disproportionately affects Harlem, ensuring that all residents, especially working families and seniors, have a stable and affordable place to call home.

In providing constituent services, what are the major needs of your district's

The major needs of my district's constituents revolve around affordable housing, quality education, accessible healthcare, and public safety. If

constituents and how will you meet them?

elected, I plan to establish a dedicated district office that will actively engage with residents to address these concerns directly. We will offer robust constituent services to assist with housing applications, educational resources, healthcare access, and public safety issues. Additionally, I will hold regular town hall meetings to hear directly from constituents and ensure their needs guide my legislative priorities. Effective communication channels will also be set up for easier access to assistance and to keep the community informed and involved.

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.

As the Treasurer of Manhattan Community Board 10 and the Political Director of Manhattan Young Democrats, I've been deeply involved in advocating for transparency, accountability, and progressive reforms in local governance. My role as a delegate for Bernie Sanders' 2016 campaign further honed my commitment to ethical governance and fair political practices. These experiences have equipped me with a thorough understanding of the complexities involved in campaign finance, ethics, and government oversight. I'm committed to leveraging this expertise to advance similar goals in the New York State Assembly, ensuring that our political systems serve the public with the highest standards of integrity.

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

My entire life

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.

As a legislator, I would focus on reforming the Board of Elections to ensure it operates with greater transparency, efficiency, and independence from political influence. A key initiative would be to minimize the influence of county party leaders in the hiring and appointment processes within the BOE. This would involve advocating for legislation to establish clearer, merit-based hiring criteria and ensuring that BOE staff are selected for their expertise and ability to manage elections impartially, rather than for their political affiliations. Additionally, I support implementing more rigorous training and performance standards for all election officials to boost accountability and voter confidence in the electoral process.

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 New York, the process of redrawing district maps should be handled by an Independent Redistricting Commission, rather than the Legislature or LATFOR. This commission should be truly independent, with strict criteria to ensure its members are non-partisan and not currently active in political office. The selection process for commission members should be transparent and designed to avoid any undue influence from political parties or incumbent politicians. Furthermore, the maps drawn by this commission should ultimately be approved by voters, not the legislature, to ensure they reflect the public's interest rather than partisan priorities. By prioritizing fairness and impartiality, and involving voters in the final approval, this approach would help create electoral districts that accurately reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of the state, promoting fairer and more effective representation.

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?

My win number for the New York State Assembly race is 6,500 votes. This target is based on historical voter turnout and the competitive landscape of the district. To achieve this, we have developed a robust campaign strategy that includes aggressive ground campaigning, digital outreach, and community engagement.

We plan to mobilize our base and expand our reach through targeted door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, and community events. Our digital campaign will leverage social media platforms to engage younger voters and disseminate our message widely. We are also placing a strong emphasis on voter registration drives and educational workshops to ensure that every potential voter is equipped and motivated to vote on election day.

Moreover, we are working closely with local organizations and community leaders to amplify our presence and message across the district, ensuring that our campaign resonates with the diverse needs and aspirations of Harlem residents. Our goal is not just to meet our win number but to foster a deep, lasting connection with the community, driving both high voter turnout and sustained political engagement.

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

We have raised 35k in total funds and an estimated 78k in matching funds. We plan to raise an additional 5k in district to receive the maximum matching funds allocation.

How many individual donors do you have?

200

Please indicate any endorsements that your campaign has received, if

I've been endorsed by the following local leaders

Maria Davis - Can't be Silenced

applicable (you can also share a link to a list of endorsements)

Nan Faessler - NY Renews, Indivisible Harlem
Josh Daniels - Indivisible Harlem
Stanley Fritz - Vera, formerly Citizen Action
Savanna Washington - Lennox Terrace Association of Concerned Tenants
Lenn Shebar - Lennox Terrace Association of Concerned Tenants
Shawn Hill - Harlem Neighborhood Block Association
Syderia Asberry- Greater Harlem Coalition
Dr. Maurice Franklin- Harlem Hospital Community Advisory Board
Stephanie Palmer- Education Chair Manhattan Community Board 10
Pastor Chris Williams - Greater Zion Hill Baptist Church

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
