
Maria Ordoñez

70

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Name Maria Ordoñez

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

District Number 70

In which primary **Democratic**

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

Age 24

Education Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Columbia University

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

- Democratic State Committee Member since 2022
- Democratic Judicial Delegate since 2023
- Democratic County Committee Member since 2019
- Obtained 2nd place in a highly contested race for City Council District 7, in 2021

Email maria@mariaordonezny.com

Campaign Manager Name Luis Ordoñez

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Scheduler contact info (If

relevant)

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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 - As an Assemblymember, I will secure truly affordable housing, invest in Harlem's public housing complexes, protect renters through legislation like Good Cause Eviction, and ensure everyone has a place to live that they can afford. Furthermore, I will support the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act to give tenants an opportunity to become owners of their homes.

Second: Education - We need to fully fund our schools, invest in our libraries, and advocate for tuition-free CUNY and SUNY because every student should have access to quality education. I also support smaller class sizes, placing a cap on charter schools, greater investment in our public school system, the Solutions not Suspensions Act, and ending mayoral control so the education system is in the hands of parents, educators, and students.

Third: Healthcare - As an Assemblymember I will fight to pass the New York Health Act so that everyone can access healthcare at no cost. Collaborate with community members and groups to address the homelessness and mental health crises, so they receive the support they need. I will also support Coverage for all that would

make everyone eligible for health insurance regardless of immigration status, and Fair Pay for Home Care to ensure better pay for home care workers. I'll advocate to codify abortion rights and pass the Equality Rights Amendment in NYS.

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?

As an Assemblymember, I would love to co-sponsor the NY Health Act and do as much as possible to make sure it gets passed. Ensuring that every New Yorker can access healthcare can truly save lives.

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

The major needs of my district's constituents include housing, education, and healthcare. I will ensure that my office is a place where constituents can find resources from community-based organizations for all of these issues. I will also use my position to advocate for legislation that will support tenants, greater affordable housing, funding for public housing, funding for public schools, and greater access to healthcare.

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 an Executive Committee member of the New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN) we have been vocal and supportive of having a stronger democracy and the new states' campaign finance program. I am proud to be the only candidate in my race that has qualified for matching funds in their last January filing. Additionally, as a Democratic State Committee member alongside a bloc of progressive State Committee members we have proposed proposals to the state party to support progressive legislation and causes. While some may have not passed, although some did, we are constantly pushing the Democratic State party for more accountability and transparency.

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

I have lived in Assembly District 70 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

As an Assemblymember, I would advocate and if possible pass legislation

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.

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)

A new body that's non-partisan and has experience should draw new district maps. Nobody in this body should be affiliated to any party or have any prior political history that could impact their work.

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?

The win number depends largely on the number of candidates on the ballot. Therefore, depending on that, the win number is between 5,000 - 7,000 votes. I have already obtained more than 5,000 votes in my 2022 State Committee race and we have a growing base of support in Harlem through my organizing, getting more people involved in the democratic process. As a result, we've had great responses from people and they are excited about having a progressive in Albany that will fight for Harlem. We will make this happen through our groundwork and a diverse set of voter contact.

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

As of our last January disclosure we have raised more money than any other candidate in the race with over \$35k. We are the only campaign to have qualified for matching funds and have qualified for nearly \$100k. Our goal is to continue fundraising until we max out on matching funds.

How many individual donors do you have?

As of the last January disclosure we are the campaign with the most individual donors (in general) and in-district district. With around 350 donors in general, and close to 150 in-district donors.

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

The New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN)

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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