



2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Alicia Vaichuns
City Council District #	30
In which primary	☒ Republican ☐ Conservative
Age	51
Education	High School
Current job, position, or occupation	Deputy chief council member Holden
Other positions or offices	I do all of the scheduling and organization for events hosted by the Council member.
Previous jobs or positions	I was a property Manager for a square block in queens for 15 years. I worked as a lunch aid in PSIS49 for 1 year and had been the PTA president for 8 years. I own and operate a catering hall in Maspeth called Clinton Hall Palace.

Campaign contact information

Website	https://aliciavfornyc.com/
X	@avaichunasnyc
Instagram	@aliciavaichunas
Facebook	@ Alicia Vaichunas

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: Improve Education

Promise 2: Public Safety

Promise 3: Veterans

2. If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would introduce? Why is that your top priority? If you are an incumbent, please also state what legislation you have passed which you are most proud of.

I would pursue a law that establishes a 30 to 60 day grace period for a grieving family to seek alternative health insurance following the passing of a municipal retiree.

3. In your view, what are the major needs of your district's constituents?

The major needs in our district is public safety and quality of life issues, which are a major issue in our district, We need more Officers in the streets to help curb these issues. Addressing tax issues that are to high and seem to get higher every year that many of our seniors struggle to pay.

4. How long have you lived in the district in which you are running, and do you have any achievements or involvement in your neighborhood you are particularly proud of?

I am the third generation living in this district. I have been part of one of the biggest civics called Juniper park civic association, Comet another civic. I have been involved so many achievements, but the one that stands out to me the most is when one of our seniors was struck, by a car on Metropolitan Ave the driver of the car tried to cover it up by just taking the man home without medical attention thank god for neighbors who questioned it. The cops were called and to later found out it as an FBI agent who hit him and they tried to cover it up. When family reached out to me I made sure I did what I need to do since he had medical bill over 1,000,000. I went and did my own work and found video from local stores to prove that this did happen. Which cops said no video available. To cut to the ending I got hold of the video and proved it was not just some nice guy driving him home he was the one who hit him and wanted no one to know it was him. He is now 82 years old doing well, but needs 24 hour care since he has been hit, but able to afford this care since I do not take no for an answer.

5. What experience have you had with good government and reform issues? (e.g., voting and election reform, campaign finance, ethics, police accountability, government transparency). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

I have worked for the council member for 8 years and I do not have a problem with calling any city agent out when fighting for seniors, children, and veterans who are not getting what is needed for everyday life. One reform issue I did fight was the lead pipes that have been installed in several home that were built in the 60's by DEP and now they wanted homeowners to take on the burden of changing those lead lines which can cost 10,000 to 23,00 dollars you tell me what senior has that. We kept up the fight and now DEP is saying they can now apply and DEP will change the lead service lines for free. All it takes is a little bit of carrying and fighting for what's right since we are all some people have to speak up for them.

6. What do you think the role of the City Council is in city government this upcoming term?

The role in city government this upcoming term should be introducing, debating, amending and passing local laws that impact every facet of city life- from housing and public safety.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

7. Do you support moving New York City's elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and will you co-sponsor a Council Resolution supporting that measure?

Yes

Voter turnout in New York City elections is exceptionally low, as they are held "off-cycle" in odd-numbered years. To boost local voter turnout and reduce participation gaps, the Legislature passed and Governor Hochul signed a law that moves county and town elections to even-numbered years, and lawmakers are supporting a constitutional amendment that would do the same for city elections, including New York City's. Citizens Union is [leading a coalition of groups advocating](#) to move New York City's elections to even-numbered years, and the City Council is considering a [Resolution in support](#) of that shift.

Comments (optional)

If it is going to boost local voters why not.

8. The New York City Board of Elections (NYC BOE) has been a source of frustration for voters and candidates for years. The City Council appoints NYC BOE members and has the power to appoint commissioners who are committed to reform, but the most recent commissioners have been appointed behind closed doors. Do you commit to request a public hearing for BOE nominees, and to only vote for individuals who are publicly committed to reducing party-based patronage and supporting open hiring practices?

Yes

Comments (optional)

Nothing good happens behind closed doors.

9. Do you support maintaining the use of Ranked Choice Voting in New York City's elections?

No

Comments (optional)

I do not like rank choice let the people decide on first choice.

10. New York City is one of the few cities that maintains a closed primary system, in which only registered party members can vote in the primary election. Do you believe New York City should shift to a form of completely open primaries, allowing all registered voters to vote in one primary where the top two candidates, regardless of party, move on to the general election?

No

Comments (optional)

If you want to do that let's get rid of parties and all vote for who we like.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

11. Individuals with business ties to city government and registered lobbyists can bypass their donation limits by “bundling” donations from other people. Do you support limiting bundling by people on the Doing Business with the City database?

Yes

12. Are you a supporter of the City’s public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to protecting the independence of the program and ensuring that the Campaign Finance Board has sufficient resources to run the program?

Yes

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

13. The recent pattern of indictments and resignations surrounding City Hall has exposed serious ethical problems in City Government. Please describe how you will maintain the highest ethical standards in office.

Maintaining the highest ethical standards in office requires a clear commitment to integrity, accountability, and transparency. I will lead by example, want to be held accountable when my community is not happy with my actions. I will always have an open door policy, and a seat at my table for everyone.

14. Incoming public servants must sever ties and divest from companies or other interests that have business dealings with the City, but they are not required to recuse themselves when working on matters involving their former business partners, clients, employer, etc. Do you support forbidding public servants to work on matters relating to their former business partners, clients, employers, and other interests for a set period of time?

Yes

Comments (optional)

They should recuse themselves for two years at least.

15. Some campaign consultants also work as lobbyists. Do you support restricting campaign consultants from lobbying the candidates they served for two years after the candidate won elected office?

Yes

16. Do you support moving lobbying oversight and enforcement from the City Clerk's Office to another agency charged with ethics issues, like the Conflicts of Interest Board?

No

Comments (optional)

If it is working why fix it.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

17. Who do you think should have the final say on discipline in the New York Police Department? (i.e., Place the final decision with the Police Commissioner; the Civilian Complaint Review Board; the Mayor; the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety; or another individual or entity).

I think the police commissioner should have the final say in discipline in New York, but needs the full story before he/she makes that final decision. We need to make sure he/she is fully briefed on the situation fully not leaving anything out.

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve police accountability in New York.**

I have not had an issue on holding police accountable for actions. I have sent proof of actions that required attention, but they would say no action required but the issue still existed would contact the Captain and action was taken. We need to hold everyone accountable no matter who they are.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

18. The Mayor currently has the power to block charter revision ballot questions (proposed by the City Council, other charter commissions, and citizen petitions) by establishing their own Charter Revision Commission. Do you support removing this Mayoral power?

Yes

19. Do you support allowing bills with strong support to go through the committee process and be put to a vote on the floor without needing the permission of the speaker?

Yes

Comments (optional)

If the speaker of the house does not like you your bills will never move forward. This is why we need more transparency.

20. Please provide your views about the New York City Council's "advice and consent" powers. In what cases, if any, should a mayor need the Council's approval for an appointment of a high ranking Mayoral official, such as an agency commissioner?

Yes, I think that should be a vote that takes place seems like some of them only hire people that say Yes and never No to them, since he does hold a hire sit than them, but sometimes you need to tell the mayor no since city council members work for the people and hear first hand from there constituents.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please provide any other info you would like us to know about you and your candidacy.

I am a hardworking and willing to always put my community/district first.