



2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	George Sarantopoulos
City Council District #	47
In which primary	☒ Republican ☐ Conservative
Age	52
Education	Some College (NYU)
Current job, position, or occupation	Owner of Access One Solutions

Previous jobs or positions

Chairman of the NATMC
Communications Director for Assemblymen Lester Chang
Owner of Wolf's Delicatessen

Campaign contact information

Website	https://georgeforchangenyc.com/
X	https://x.com/George4ChangeNY
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574972150230

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: Lower the Cost of Living by cutting down on taxes and fees.

Promise 2: Shift more funding to the NYPD and get more police officers hired.

Promise 3: Improve local quality of life by going after package theft, and illegal dumping.

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 work to pass "Priscilla's Law" to require license plates and registration for e-scooters and electric bikes not covered by the DMV. We need more accountability from individuals using e-scooters and e-bikes, especially if they are endangering people on the sidewalk.

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

I have a diverse district with different needs. The top priorities across the board though is affordability and safety. In Coney Island there still is infrastructure problems lingering from Hurricane Katrina, and a need for more jobs. In Bath Beach there are problems related to traffic and illegal dumping. In Bay Ridge we have to continue work on revitalizing 86th street shopping corridor.

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've lived in Bay Ridge for over 25 years and have run my business here for about the same amount of time. My wife and I have both been active members of the SLT at PS/IS 104, and she now serves as the newest member of the SLT at Mark Twain Middle School. Together, we've also been deeply involved with the Greek School of Plato, where we have both served on the board.

In addition, I've contributed to and participated in numerous holiday toy giveaways for children, and I previously served as Chairman of the National Association of ATM Operators (NATMC), a national trade organization for independent ATM operators.

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 always been outsider and critic of the party politics in New York City. During my own primary potential voter fraud within the Board of Elections was discovered, and I worked to bring that to light. Especially due to the fact that my opponent in the primary was also the Kings County Party Chair which oversees appointments to the Board of Elections. I am against the Tammany Hall style game of appointments for favors both from elected officials and party bosses. If elected I would champion reforms that prioritize merit in civil service over appointments, and go after corrupt officials in city departments. I would also work to hold organizations that get discretionary funding from council members accountable.

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

I believe that the role of Council Members is to bring their neighborhoods diverse and unique voices to city government. I also believe in the Council's responsibility in holding the Mayor to account whoever it may end up being.

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)

I do support shifting local elections to even numbered years as it will increase citizen participation.

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)

I am 110% committed to this, due to my past experiences. I will make this a top priority of mine.

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

Yes

Comments (optional)

I would like to see it optimized in races with only 2 candidates.

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?

Yes

Comments (optional)

New York should move away from closed partisan primaries.

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or**

plan to take to improve elections and voting in New York City.

I would like Citizens Union to take note of what I went through with my primary race and note that I have seen the corruption first hand. Here is a link to an article about it:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/29/nyregion/council-dead-voter-fraud.html>

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

*** In the box below, you may provide additional information on any actions that you have taken or plan to take to improve New York City’s campaign finance system.**

I believe that the CFB should provide a publicly available pricing guide book since they themselves monitor going rates for services, and this would help candidates not be taken advantage of by unscrupulous consultants and vendors.

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.

I will prioritize merit in my office and hire only based on that and not "party promises or affiliations". I will be open and hold non-profits that get discretionary funding from office accountable. I will also commit to holding town halls and State of the District forums throughout my term.

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

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

Comments (optional)

I believe NYC is infested with unscrupulous consultants, and lobbyists. We need more protections against their influence.

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?

Yes

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 would like there to be checks and balances when it comes to serious allegations or misconduct. I am against a single individual holding final judgement, and would at least favor a system where the Civilian Complaint Review Board could override a Police Commissioner when there is a clear conflict of interest.

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

Comments (optional)

I am in favor of limiting the Mayor's power especially if it means more citizen involvement.

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)

City Council should not have a top down power structure.

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?

I favor a system similar to the checks congress has on presidential appointments.

ADDITIONAL INFO

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

I am a cancer survivor and I would like to advance more early detection and cancer screening programs to all New Yorkers.