



2025 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York City Council

Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

Candidate info

Name	Phil Wong
City Council District #	30
In which primary	Democratic
Age	59
Current job, position, or occupation	Budget Director, Office of CM Robert Holden

Other positions or offices

Former President of Community Education Council 24 (CEC 24) 2020-2021
Former Member of Community Education Council 24 (CEC 24) 2018-2019

Previous jobs or positions

Freeland patent translator, English to Simplified Chinese, Simplified Chinese into English.

Campaign contact information

Website	philwong2025.com
X	https://x.com/PhilWongNY
Facebook	Phil Wong 2025
Bluesky	None
Other social media platforms	None

INTRODUCTION

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

Promise 1: Public Safety - fully fund the NYPD

Promise 2: Quality Schools - keep the SHSAT, expand Gifted & Talented Programs

Promise 3: Stop City of Yes -- keep communities as they are, stop blank check to developers

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.

Fully hire back the school safety agents lost during the de Blasio years. Kids are leaving the public school system because they and their parents both feel schools are unsafe.

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

a) Roll back the City of Yes, this has nothing to do with affordable housing, it is merely a blank check to developers telling them to enter any community and build, build, and build. My district's infrastructure is already at capacity and needs to be upgraded to meet existing 1 and 2 family homes; b) Roll back bail reform; c) Stop congestion pricing.

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 have lived in Elmhurst since 1976. I protested the opening of the Pan Am shelter, had kitchens installed in the shelter and negotiated the operator to provide social services to the homeless. I also stopped the opening of the Holiday Inn homeless shelter, and protested the shutting down of a Maspeth synagogue and converted into a illegal migrant shelter at taxpayers' expense. As CEC 24 President I worked with the District Superintendent to open the dual language English-Polish program at PS 153. I lobbied in Albany, testified at Senate, Assembly, and City Council hearings to keep the test for Specialized High Schools, bring back the Gifted and Talented Programs, and oppose congestion pricing and the City of YES. I secured funds for in-district nonprofits to clean up the graffiti, hold e-recycle events, and provide vital services to veterans. I have lived in this district most of life, I care about it and I am ready to serve as Councilman on Day 1.

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.

Need voter ID to reduce voter fraud, the CCRB is an outdated agency and needs to be reformed. There is a lot of fraud in the public assistance system and it needs a top down overhaul. City Council needs to have more oversight on the Mayor's Office for corruption. This is common sense, no experience needed.

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

City Council needs to have oversight to address corruption in the Executive Branch of the City. City Council also needs to make sure there is no corruption within itself. Laws needs to be passed to prevent special interests groups from having excessive influence on City policy. There needs to be stronger oversight on nonprofits getting city funding.

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?

No

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)

Very bad idea, just promote voter turnout in odd years.

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 have seen BOE in action, and this would prevent some of its incompetence.

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

No

Comments (optional)

It benefits the elites, while confusing the average voter who doesn't understand it.

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

*** 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.**

Eliminate matching funds.

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?

No

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?

No

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.

Elect honest politicians.

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

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).

The Mayor.

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

ADDITIONAL INFO