

Candidate Questionnaire

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run for a seat on the New York Legislature!

Citizens Union appreciates your commitment to serve the public.

In the following pages, you will find questions regarding your positions on various reform issues and your plans for office.

Responses to these questions will be one of several factors Citizens Union uses to evaluate candidates running for office, and to issue our preference for the June primary. Read more about the method, principles, and criteria of the candidate evaluation process [here](#).

**

If you wish to be considered, please submit the questionnaire by June 27, 2022.

If you seek our support, we will need to schedule an interview with you as part of the evaluation process. Given time constraints and the limited capacity of a member-based organization, we may not be able to evaluate all contests or candidates in this election cycle.

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If you cannot complete the questionnaire in one sitting, you can click Save at the bottom of every page.

Once you submit the questionnaire, you will receive a confirmation email with your responses. Citizens Union will not be able to see your answers unless you submit the form. We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues (your contact information will not be published).

For any questions, please email candidates@citizensunion.org

We thank you very much for your response.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name

Mathylde Frontus

Office Sought (New York State)

Assembly

District Number

46

In which primary

What party line/s are you running under?

Working Families/ Democrat

If elected, which legislative conference will you join (e.g., Democrat, Republican, other)?

Democrat

Age

44

Education

PhD in Social Policy & Administration (Columbia University School of Social Work); MTS (Harvard Divinity School); MA (Teachers College, Columbia); MSW & BSW (NYU)

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Elected to the NYS Assembly for District 46 in November 2018. Won an open seat and sworn in on November 15, 2018. Currently at the end of my second term.

Website FrontusforNY.com

Twitter [@FrontusforNY](https://twitter.com/FrontusforNY)

Facebook [FrontusAD46](https://www.facebook.com/FrontusAD46)

Affirmations

Have you completed the required campaign finance filings?

Yes

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

Yes

(Please note: interviews are prerequisites for Citizens Union preferences and endorsements)

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark L. Johnson".

ETHICS

What is your opinion on the recently passed ethics reform, which replaced JCOPE with a new ethics oversight agency called Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government? Did you support this policy?

Yes, I do support the policy because for years good government groups suggested that JCOPE be replaced by a more independent body and it's time for a new page.

Do you support the new independent ethics oversight agency to also replace the Legislative Ethics Commission (LEC)?

Yes

Do you support significantly limiting outside compensation earned by state legislators and eliminate stipends, while increasing their pay?

Yes

Do you hold financial interest or serve as an officer on an entity that receives funding from the state? If you do, how will you manage this conflict of interest?

No

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.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Election Administration

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.

We must remove the control of the election administration by county political parties. The public has become increasingly distrustful of the system and it's time for a new page.

Do you support removing the constitutional requirement in election administration that empowers the two major political parties to nominate and effectively control election boards?

Yes

Do you support reducing the party-based hiring in boards of elections to the minimum currently required by the constitution?

Yes

Do you support implementing an open, competitive, merit-based hiring process for all election administration staff and certain functions at polls?

Yes

If needed, you may elaborate below on your positions on the previous questions.

Voting Rights

Do you support re-passing the constitutional amendment to enact same-day voter registration?

Yes

Do you support re-passing the constitutional amendment to enact no-excuse absentee voting?

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.

I believe the Commission should be able to keep drawing the maps but that the legislature should strive to adhere

Open and Competitive Elections

Do you support easing access to the ballot for parties and independent candidates, by returning to the pre-2020 voting and signature thresholds? That includes reducing the voting threshold to become a registered party back to 50,000 votes in a gubernatorial election, and the petition requirement for independent candidates back to 15,000 signatures.

Yes

Do you support reforming the process of filling vacancies in the state legislature by implementing nonpartisan special elections or holding a primary election at least thirty days in advance of the special election?

Yes

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)

The Independent Redistricting Commission

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.

I believe the Commission should be able to keep drawing the maps but that the legislature should strive to adhere

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Do you support further reducing campaign contribution limits?

Yes

Do you support setting even lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and those who do business with the state?

Yes

Starting from the next election cycle, New York will have a public campaign finance program, offering matching funds on small donations for candidates who opt in. If you decide to run again in the next election, do you intend to participate in the program?

Yes

Do you support moving the campaign finance matching program to be administered by an independent, nonpartisan body outside of the State Board of Election?

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.

COURT REFORM

Do you support simplifying and consolidating New York State's court system - which includes 11 trial courts - by passing the Chief Judge's proposed constitutional amendment to modernize the courts?

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.

GOALS, PLANS, AND REPRESENTATION

What are the top three campaign promises or goals, and what action will you take to achieve them if elected? Feel free to reference an answer above rather than restate it.

First: Fight for the passage of my NYCHA bill which would mandate air, water and lead testing. In light of recent events, the need is urgent

Second: In light of recent tragedies in my district and across NYC, I will focus more on mental health and introduce a package of bills designed to help "catch" New Yorkers before they fall through the cracks

Third: Promote economic mobility which I've begun through my 6-pt plan by helping pass legislation to help first time entrepreneurs and home owners

If elected, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to introduce? If you are an incumbent, what is the first piece of legislation you would want to pass?

NYCHA Bill referenced above

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

Housing is one of our major constituent needs. Specifically, access to affordable housing and secondly getting NYCHA to perform timely repairs and upgrades.

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.

I introduced a bill to help promote transparency in the state budget. It would create a search tool for New Yorkers to track discretionary awards made by members of the legislature. No such tool currently exists.

Do you currently live in this district? How long have you lived in it?

Yes. For 37 years.

For incumbents: If your district has changed significantly following this year's redistricting, how do you intend to run your office to serve the needs of the new constituents you now represent?

PATH TO VICTORY

What is your win number (the number of votes needed to win this race), and what is your plan to achieve that number?

I will need 23,000 votes to win. I will achieve this number by reaching out to new voters and independents across my district.

What are your current fundraising numbers, if different than the last campaign finance filing?

Not different

How many individual donors do you have?

100

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

Please visit FrontusforNY.com

ADDITIONAL INFO

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?

I have a very detailed section on my campaign website about my background and work in the community before I entered politics.

Please review your answers by clicking PREVIEW ANSWERS below. You can submit the questionnaire at the bottom of the preview page by clicking SUBMIT.

Once you click SUBMIT, you will receive a confirmation email with a PDF file containing your responses. If you don't see the email, please check your spam box.

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at candidates@citizensunion.org

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We plan to make responses to this questionnaire public on our website, printed voters directory, and other appropriate venues.