



# 2026 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York State Legislature

## Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

**THIS IS A BLANK QUESTIONNAIRE – YOU CAN SEND IT WITH YOUR RESPONSES  
TO [CANDIDATES@CITIZENSUNION.ORG](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org) OR SUBMIT IT ONLINE [HERE](#)**

Congratulations on your decision to run for a seat in the New York State Legislature! Citizens Union appreciates your commitment to serving the public.

For over 125 years, Citizens Union (CU) has been devoted to holding our local government accountable with the highest ethical standards and fighting for political reforms that improve New York democracy (<https://citizensunion.org/issues/>). To promote a competitive and diverse political culture, a fair and open political process, and accountable and responsible government, we evaluate candidates running for office and back those who strongly support reform. Our evaluations are done through questionnaires, independent research, and interviews conducted by our Local Candidates Committee. (<https://citizensunion.org/portfolio-item/citizens-union-2025-candidate-evaluation-info-for-candidates/>).

**As a prerequisite for receiving the support of Citizens Union, please complete the following questionnaire and submit your response by Friday, March 27, 2026.** As you complete the form, you can click “Save” and return to the form later. All short answers have a 250-word limit. Once you have completed the questionnaire and submitted your response to us, you will receive a copy of your submission. Your submission will be posted on our website (with the exception of contact info).

Upon receipt of your submission, we will reach out to you or your staff to schedule a virtual interview with members of our Local Candidate Committee. The interview will be recorded. Shortly thereafter, we will announce our support in key priority races to our members and on our website and other channels. 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.

Please feel free to reach out to Citizens Union with any questions or comments at [candidates@citizensunion.org](mailto:candidates@citizensunion.org).

Thank you very much. We look forward to your response.

<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Name	Furhan Ahmad
District	Assembly District 66
In which primary	June 2026
Age	
Education	
Current job, position, or occupation	Retired Firefighter
Other positions or roles	
Previous jobs or positions	EMT, NYPD
<b>Contact information</b>	
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## General

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

My top priorities are care and safety that works, housing stability, and climate ready infrastructure that protects people and neighborhoods.

I will push for stronger mental health and substance use services so people get help before a crisis, including improving accountability in programs like assisted outpatient treatment. I will fight for housing policies that prevent displacement and expand deeply affordable housing, including targeted support for vulnerable populations like LGBTQ youth. And I will work to strengthen climate resilience in Lower Manhattan by tying state funding to real performance on flood protection, infrastructure upgrades, and transit reliability.

Across all of these, my focus is on better coordination between agencies and stronger transparency so the government actually delivers results for people.

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

I have lived in Lower Manhattan for several years and have served Lower Manhattan and the city for decades as a firefighter. I am most proud of showing up for New Yorkers in moments of crisis, including during Hurricane Sandy. That experience shapes how I think about prevention, accountability, and the role of government.

- What experience have you had, if any, with good government and reform issues? (e.g. voting and elections, campaign finance, ethics and anti-corruption, checks and balances, government transparency and oversight, police accountability). If you've worked to advance these goals, we'd love to hear about it.

I have spent my career inside public systems where coordination and accountability directly impact outcomes. I have seen how gaps between agencies, unclear responsibility, and lack of transparency can lead to repeat crises.

That has shaped my commitment to stronger oversight, clear performance standards, and independent decision making. I support reforms that reduce political influence, improve transparency, and ensure agencies are working together effectively to serve the public.

## Elections and Voting

- Do you support opening up New York City's closed primary system, allowing over 1 million unaffiliated voters that are currently locked out of the election to participate in the primary election?

Yes. Expanding access strengthens participation and trust in our elections.

- Will you oppose any attempt to permanently remove redistricting protections from the state constitution, including existing protections of minority voting rights, population equity, ban on political gerrymandering, and consideration of communities of interest?

Yes. Protecting fair maps and communities from being disenfranchised is something I strongly believe in.

- Do you support reforming the process of filling vacancies in the state legislature by implementing nonpartisan special elections (like the system used in New York City) instead of giving party officials the power to decide who will run as the party nominee?

Yes. Voters should decide who represents them, not party insiders.

- Do you support restructuring the New York City Board of Elections to make it more professionalized and transparent, and less dependent on political parties ([S699 Krueger/A1852 Rozic](#))?

Yes. It should be professional, transparent, and independent from political parties. This gives the power back into the hands of the voters and not parties. As someone that does not come from legacy politics, I know first hand the challenges of navigating the board of election processes as an outsider.

- Do you oppose requiring registered voters to show ID to vote in New York State?

Yes. We should reduce barriers to voting. Once someone has been verified to be a registered voter with proper identification, we should not create more barriers to vote in each individual election.

- Do you support providing time extenders for polling place voting hours in cases where an emergency leads to voting being disrupted or shut down ([S4602A Gounardes/A5846A Gibbs](#))

Yes. Access to voting must be protected and remain accessible to all citizens. We have to adapt to emergency situations and not force people to choose between safety and democracy.

- Do you support the Democracy During Detention Act ([S440 Myrie/A2121 Walker](#)), which establishes the election infrastructure to make voting accessible for all those eligible to vote who are detained in jails?

Yes. Eligible voters should not lose their voice due to detention.

## Campaign Finance

- Are you a public campaign finance participant? If not, please explain why.  
Yes.
- Are you a supporter of the state's public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to ensuring the program is fully funded?

Yes. It reduces the influence of PACs and Corporate donors and strengthens local donor participation. It also creates the opportunity for people from all socio-economic backgrounds to run for office.

- Do you support requiring disclosure of a contributor's employer in campaign finance reports? ([S1910 Rivera/A3092 Carroll](#))

Yes. Transparency builds trust. But I will add that employment information of donors should not bias elections. People have to make difficult choices about their livelihood and providing for their families. While some large corporate entities or employers can be bad actors, people don't always have the luxury of choosing their employment when they are trying to make ends meet for their families.

- Do you support requiring Independent Expenditure entities (Super PACs) to disclose their top three donors on ads, similar to the requirements under NYC law? ([S8445 Fahy/A10097 Solages](#))

Yes. Voters deserve clear transparency.

- Do you support applying lower contribution limits to lobbyists and people doing business with the state or seeking contracts from the state? New York City imposes lower contribution limits for registered lobbyists and individuals doing business with the City.

Yes. We need stronger safeguards against pay to play politics.

## Ethics

- Do you support requiring lobbyists to report their campaign contributions and fundraising activity, as well as campaign consulting services they provide?

Yes

- Do you support requiring the disclosure of lobbying in connection with a nomination or confirmation of a nominee that requires Senate confirmation in lobbying reports? ([S374 Gianaris/A7456 McDonald](#))

Yes

- Do you support codifying sexual harassment as conduct that violates the public officers and employees code of ethics? ([Gounardes S4197/Kelles A6201](#))

Yes. There must be clear standards and accountability.

### **Police Accountability**

- 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? ([S4966 Bailey/A292 Cruz](#))

Yes. Effective oversight depends on access to information.

- Do you support transferring disciplinary hearings involving police officers from the NYPD to the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)? ([S3927 Myrie](#))

Yes. Independent processes strengthen public trust.

### **Revising City Charters**

- Do you support banning the establishment of “lame duck” charter revision commissions, established by mayors right before the end of their term? ([S8934 Liu](#))

Yes.

- Do you support mandating that charter commissions conduct their process over a mandatory minimum timeline of 180 days before issuing recommended ballot questions to a city’s charter?

Yes. Public input should be meaningful and not rushed.