



# 2026 Primary Candidate Questionnaire - New York State Legislature

## Citizens Union - Local Candidates Committee

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	Illapa Sairitupac
District	NY State Assembly District 65
In which primary	Democratic
Age	39
Education	Masters in Social Work
Current job, position, or occupation	Tenant organizer at Cooper Square Committee (2022 - Present).
Other positions or roles	Organizer at This Land is Ours Community Land Trust (CLT).
Previous jobs or positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands Off NYC (2025- present)</li> <li>• St.Marks Place Institute for Mental Health (2020-2022)</li> <li>• Bellevue Educare (2016- 2019)</li> </ul>
<b>Contact information</b>	
Email	info@illapa.nyc
Campaign Manager Name	Darren Goldner
Campaign Manager Email	info@illapa.nyc
Phone Number	+1 347-563-2538
Website	<a href="https://illapa.nyc">https://illapa.nyc</a>
X	@illapaNYC
Facebook	
Instagram	@illapanyc
Bluesky	
Other social media platforms	

## General

- What are your top three campaign promises or goals, and what actions will you take to achieve them if elected?
  - Taxing the rich to pay for badly needed services for all New Yorkers, e.g., universal child care
  - Creating a Social Housing Development Authority (SHDA - S5674 / A6365) so New York can build thousands of units of public affordable housing.
  - Passing New York for All (S2235A/A3506) and Dignity Not Detention (S316/A4181) to make it clear that ICE has no place in our state.

I think of myself as a movement candidate and, if elected, would pursue an 'inside-outside' strategy to get our policies enacted. In practice, that means working inside the legislature by, e.g., acting as part of the Socialists in Office bloc, organizing other electeds to support movement policies as well, and speaking in favor of those policies in conference. On the outside, I would organize working people in my district to, e.g., apply pressure by writing to their representatives, volunteering to organize their neighborhoods and attending rallies.

- 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've lived in the district for 14 years now. I am a local tenant organizer and I help Renters build tenant associations, pressure landlords into delivering the repairs they need, and activate people into our housing movement. I am also an organizer with the This Land is Ours Community Land Trust, where we are fighting for community land trusts in Lower Manhattan. This has entailed many teach-ins, rallies and community events to educate and empower our neighbors to understand that land use CAN be decommodified.

I am also proud to be an immigrant rights organizer in my community and have led Know Your Rights trainings, coordinated and grown local networks against ICE, and liaised with community leaders. I am running to represent Assembly District 65 because we need a socialist in office who will fight for the working class and reject all corporate and fossil fuel money.

- 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 was part of the End Warehousing Coalition which, in 2023, won a historic victory with Governor Hochul signing our bill S2980C into law, which combats the frankensteining of rent-stabilized apartments and takes away the financial incentive for Landlords to do so.

Also, as a housing organizer I also successfully organized for the passage of Intro 195-B by the City Council, which creates a path for tenants to report housing maintenance code violations for unoccupied units in their building. Previously, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development was not required to inspect unoccupied units. This new bill allows tenants to call 311 to report unsafe conditions in unoccupied apartments and have Housing Preservation and Development inspect the unoccupied unit and issue necessary violations for hazardous conditions. The agency would also be required to publish these violations on its website to provide more transparency.

## Elections and Voting

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

I support doing this.

- 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?

I would oppose any such attempts.

- 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?

I support doing this.

- 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](#))?

I support doing this.

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

I oppose it.

- 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](#))

I support doing this.

- 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?

I support this bill.

## Campaign Finance

- Are you a public campaign finance participant? If not, please explain why.

I participate in the program and it has been a game-changer in terms of allowing me to focus on small dollar donations in-district.

- Are you a supporter of the state's public campaign matching funds program, and do you commit to ensuring the program is fully funded?

*Fully funding the program ensures its budget meets the program's needs and demand.*

I support the program and commit to ensuring it is fully funded.

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

I support this.

- 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](#))

I support this.

- 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.

I support this.

## Ethics

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

I support this.

- 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](#))

I support this.

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

I support this.

### **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](#))

I support this.

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

I support this.

### **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](#))

I support this.

- 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?

I support this.