



Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee NYS Legislative Election - Primary 2026

Name Jessica González-Rojas

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Sought (New York State) Senate

District Number 13

In which primary Democratic

Age 49

Education Masters Degree

Current job, position, or occupation

State Assemblymember

Other positions or roles

Assemblymember González-Rojas is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Trafficking, Chair of the Task Force on Women's Issues, and Secretary of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus. She currently sits on the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), serving as the Chair of the Task Force on Labor and Workforce, and If/When/How, a national nonprofit network of law students and lawyers committed to reproductive justice.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Prior to running for State Assembly in 2020, González-Rojas served in leadership for 13 years at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice (formerly the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health), including as Executive Director. Before serving in the Assembly, she was elected to the New York State Democratic Committee from 2002-2006. She has received proclamations from the New York State Senate, New York State Assembly, New York City Comptroller, and New York City Council for her local and national advocacy. Through a leadership program at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), she served as a community liaison in two district offices of Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez.

Campaign Contact Information

Website www.votejgr.com

Twitter @votejgr

Facebook @votejgr

Instagram @votejgr

Signature**GOALS AND PLANS**

In addition to evaluating stances on the reform issues, Citizens Union considers the campaign goals articulated to voters, issues specific to the district, and the ability propose thoughtful solutions to represent constituents' interests.

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

Affordability is a priority issue - addressing food scarcity, adequate and affordable housing, dignified wages and alleviating some of the burden our society places on working families has been a key issue for me during my time in office. Our needs are multi-faceted and deeply interconnected. I have 5 issues that I am championing as part of my Senate campaign:

Universal Childcare, which includes access to free, quality childcare and after-school care, a living wage and robust benefits for care workers, support for all modalities of care, and guaranteed childcare seats for established programs in NYC.

Health Care Access, which includes the New York Health Act, my bill guaranteeing Coverage for All, and fighting the Trump agenda on healthcare cuts.

Food Security, which includes legislation to provide SNAP for all, regardless of immigration status; increasing the minimum benefit of SNAP recipients from \$23 to \$100, upgrading the SNAP card to prevent skimming and provide relief for victims of SNAP theft, and promoting a healthy grocery store pilot in the district.

Protect Immigrant New Yorkers, which includes New York for All, the MELT Act, Protect New York Students (my bill), Access to Representation Act, and Dignity Not Detention.

Affordable Housing Expansion and Tenant Protections, which includes the Social Housing Authority, full funding for the Housing Access Voucher program, and safely converting basement and cellar apartments to meet fire code to allow for rental.

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 this district since 1998. One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is serving on the founding Board of Directors of New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE) in 1999. As the daughter of an immigrant, it was one of my earliest organizing experiences after college—helping build an organization dedicated to strengthening the power of local immigrant communities from the ground up. I served on the Board for over 13 years, and it's been incredible to watch NICE grow and evolve into a leading advocacy organization with a strong, member-driven base.

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 believe this should be an overarching goal for every elected official. Building confidence with the community to their representatives is a continual effort. I also believe easing pathways for more participation in our democracy is how to best protect it. As an elected, I support:

As a candidate in 2019-2020, I was very vocal in the support of the public campaign finance program, that was voted on that year. I also enrolled in the program when it rolled out in 2024, and have been a strong advocate of ensuring its robust funding so that the program can be successful

I am the prime sponsor of a bill (A4868) that builds upon the success of the 50-a police accountability law

that also passed during the 2019-2020 legislative session. My bill would clarify the full extent of the intent of the law with regards to 'unsubstantiated claims' and protect those who are survivors of sexual misconduct by law enforcement

-Advancing and passing the Language Access Expansion Act to ensure statewide translation and interpretation standards across state agencies, authorities, and counties;

-Passage of legislation to allow non-citizens to participate in state and local elections;

-Expanding state funding for naturalization assistance and community-based citizenship programs

-Passage of the New York Counts Act, which would establish a dedicated Office of Census Services including a State Census Counts Commission to build and maintain permanent, state-level census infrastructure to ensure an accurate and inclusive state count for the 2030 census and beyond.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

1. 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?

No

Comments (optional)

My answer is actually 'unsure'; I would be open to further exploration.

I'm very interested in exploring proposals that increase participation for the more than one million unaffiliated voters currently excluded from primary elections. At the same time, I'm not yet convinced that a fully open, nonpartisan primary is the right approach. Political parties play an important role in organizing around shared values and helping voters identify candidates who align with them. I found the Citizen Union fact sheet compelling and would welcome further discussion of models that expand access for unaffiliated voters while preserving the role of party-based primaries.

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

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

Yes

6. 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

7. 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

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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

Yes

9. 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

10. Do you support requiring disclosure of a contributor's employer in campaign finance reports? (S1910 Rivera/A3092 Carroll)

Yes

11. 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/A10097Solages)

Yes

12. 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

ETHICS

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

Yes

14. Do you support including lobbying regarding a nomination or confirmation of a nominee that requires Senate confirmation in lobbying reports? (S374 Gianaris/A7456 McDonald)

Yes

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

Yes

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

16. 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

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

Yes

REVISING CITY CHARTERS

15. 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

16. 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

ADDITIONAL INFO

What else would you like us to know about yourself?

I am grateful to have earned Citizen's Union's endorsement in the past during my successful campaign for New York State Assembly.