Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee NYS Legislative Election - Primary 2026

Name Lilah Mejia

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Sought (New York State) Assembly

District Number 65

In which primary Democratic

Age 48

Education BA, Urban Studies; Masters in Emergency Management

Current job, position, or occupation

Director of Outreach of New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)

Other positions or roles

Assistant Director at Project Home,
Director of LES team, BioBus
Covid Manager

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement

Member of CODA
Former President of the CEC1
CAB member at Henry St. Settlement
Manhattan Liaison for the Public Advocate Office

Campaign Contact Information

Website www.lilahmejia4ny.com

Twitter N/A

Facebook N/A

Instagram Lilah4Assembly

Bluesky N/A

Other social platforms N/A

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?

1. Strengthening Public Education & Student Support
I will work to ensure all public schools have access to food through school-based fridges and pantries so no child is learning while hungry. I will also advocate to increase funding for CUNY, including expanding mental health services for students and supporting PSC-CUNY in the fight to provide adjunct professors with pathways to full-time positions.

2. Housing Stability & Tenant Protection
I will push for policies that provide stronger protections for tenants, including ensuring buildings connect residents to resources if they are facing rental arrears. I will also work on legislation that specifically protects seniors from displacement, so they are not pushed out of the homes they've lived in for years.

3. Infrastructure & Accessibility
I will advocate for critical infrastructure improvements in our district, including securing an elevator at the Delancey Street station to ensure accessibility for seniors, people with disabilities, and families.

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 am a lifelong resident, I grew up on 12th Street and Avenue D in the Lillian Wald Houses, and at 13, I moved to the Masaryk Towers, where I continue to raise my 6 children.

I am proud of many of my accomplishments, but a few stand out. I helped bring vegan community fridges into District 1 public schools after COVID, ensuring students and families had access to fresh, healthy food. This past November with efforts from the District 1 office we also helped secure pantries for our Public Schools.
I also created the first Puerto Rican Day Parade in the Lower East Side two years ago, celebrating our culture and honoring the contributions of our community.

Additionally, I played a role in securing $350 million for the East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) project, helping to protect our waterfront communities from future climate impacts when I was the LES READY Coordinator at GOLES.

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.

My experience with good government and reform comes from the work I've done in my community, making sure systems are transparent and accountable to the people they serve.

I served as Director of Outreach for the NYC Charter Revision Commission through the City Council, where I helped educate communities about ballot proposals and how they impact everyday New Yorkers. I also worked for Jumaane Williams, where I saw firsthand the importance of government oversight and holding agencies accountable.

As President of Community Education Council 1, I worked closely with the Department of Education to ensure parents had a voice and that decisions were being made transparently. I also partnered with Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) on participatory budgeting, where our community secured funding that helped bring community fridges into our schools.

I've also done voter outreach year after year making sure people are registered, understand the process, and know their voice matters. That work is important to me because participation is the foundation of a functioning democracy.

Through all of this, I've seen how confusing and inaccessible government can be. That's why my focus has always been on making sure people understand their rights, have access to information, and can hold systems accountable.

For me, good government means being open, accessible, and responsive and making sure the community is part of the decision-making process.

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?

Yes

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

Please feel free to attach any additional information such as resume, campaign brochures, or issues statements.

2025LilahBio.docx

LilahLMejia2025resume.docx