



# Candidate Questionnaire

Local Candidates Committee NYS Legislative Election - Primary 2026

Name Pia Rahman

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Sought (New York State)

District Number 37

In which primary

Age 35

Education College Graduated

### Current job, position, or occupation

Full time candidate

## Campaign Contact Information

Website piarahman.com

Twitter piarahman37

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/people/Pia-Rahman-for-New-York-State-Assembly-37/61587261119514/>

Instagram piarahman37

### 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?

My campaign is centered on three core priorities: expanding affordable housing, strengthening education for underserved communities, and protecting immigrant families.

First, I will fight to increase access to truly affordable housing by advocating for greater state investment in affordable housing development, strengthening tenant protections, and closing loopholes that allow for displacement and predatory rent increases. I will also push for stronger oversight to ensure public funds are used to create housing that working families can actually afford.

Second, I am committed to improving educational outcomes in underserved communities. That means increasing equitable school funding, expanding resources for multilingual learners, and investing in mental health support and after-school programs. I will work to ensure that every child—regardless of zip code—has access to a high-quality education and the tools they need to succeed.

Third, I will actively fight against harmful immigration enforcement practices, including the overreach of ICE. I will support policies that protect immigrant communities, strengthen legal services, and ensure that state and local resources are not used to target or separate families.

To achieve these goals, I will build coalitions with community organizations, labor unions, and fellow legislators, while using the state budget process and legislative advocacy to turn these priorities into real, lasting change.

**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 this district for a few years, and my connection to the community is rooted in both my personal experiences and my ongoing work on the ground. Throughout that time, I've made it a priority to be actively engaged and responsive to the needs of the people who call this district home.

One of the things I am most proud of is organizing and hosting a few Know Your Rights workshops. These workshops have helped ensure that residents feel informed, empowered, and better equipped to navigate challenging situations. At a time when many families feel vulnerable, providing access to accurate information and resources has been critical.

I am also proud of my role in coalition building through my work with Community Board 2, where I've worked alongside neighbors, advocates, and local leaders to address issues ranging from housing to public safety. That experience has taught me the importance of collaboration and listening to diverse perspectives in order to move meaningful solutions forward.

Additionally, my campaign work within the district has allowed me to connect directly with residents, understand their concerns, and build a strong grassroots network. Through all of this, I've remained committed to showing up, building relationships, and advocating for policies that reflect the needs and values of this community.

**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 developed a strong foundation in good government and reform issues through my work on multiple political campaigns, where transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct are not just ideals but daily operational necessities. Working across several campaign cycles, I have been directly involved in ensuring compliance with campaign finance laws, including accurate reporting, fundraising transparency, and adherence to state and local regulations. This experience has given me a clear understanding of how critical strong oversight and enforcement mechanisms are to maintaining public trust.

In my campaign roles, I have also prioritized voter engagement and access, helping to organize outreach efforts that inform voters of their rights and how to participate in elections. This includes coordinating field operations, managing volunteer programs, and ensuring that outreach efforts are conducted fairly and inclusively. I've seen firsthand how barriers to participation can undermine democracy, and that has shaped my commitment to expanding access to the ballot.

Additionally, working closely with campaign teams has reinforced the importance of ethical leadership,

internal accountability, and transparency in decision-making. Campaigns require constant coordination with regulatory bodies, adherence to disclosure requirements, and responsiveness to public scrutiny—principles that translate directly into governing.

Through these experiences, I've built a deep appreciation for the role of checks and balances, government transparency, and oversight, and I am committed to advancing policies that strengthen these systems while ensuring government remains accountable to the people it serves.

# 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

### What else would you like us to know about yourself?

I am a lifelong New Yorker and proud native of the Bronx. I was born in Parkchester to Bangladeshi immigrant parents and have lived in every borough except Staten Island—from Parkchester and Midtown Manhattan to Sheepshead Bay, Fort Greene, Greenpoint, and now Long Island City. While I spent my middle and high school years in Utica, upstate New York, my heart has always been here, and when I say I love New York, I mean all of it. It would be an honor to represent my only home, my forever home.

Some of the most formative experiences that shaped my approach to leadership came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when I served as a dietetic intern in a COVID-only state hospital. The challenges of that time led me to organizing as a way to make a tangible impact. I was fortunate to find my footing with Team AOC Food Pantry, which opened doors to the broader political world. Through multiple cycles of Team AOC, and campaigns for leaders like Zohran Mamdani, Kristen Gonzalez, and Brad Lander, I learned how grassroots organizing can translate into real change. Working alongside Brad, in particular, showed me how bold, community-centered leadership can transform a city and inspire people to engage deeply with their communities.

Today, I serve on Community Board 2 in Queens, continuing my commitment to local politics and the people I represent. I am a lifelong advocate for social, economic, and environmental justice. I am running to fight for a New York where everyone—regardless of race, income, immigration status, or zip code—has access to quality healthcare, housing, education, and a living wage.

My core values are equity, accountability, and solidarity: I believe in building power with communities, not for them, and ensuring that the government serves people, not corporations or special interests. My vision is a New York where public resources are invested in people, workers have rights and dignity, and our policies reflect justice, fairness, and a sustainable future for all.